

leave it to yourselves to say in what way he discharged his duties in both these offices. Whatever may have been the subject of dispute—or whatever diversity of opinion may have existed as to the best means of promoting the interests and welfare of the congregation throughout the course of its history from the time of its organisation—we have not heard that any have ever ventured to call in question the eminence of his services. On the contrary, was it not the case that by a continued series of praise-worthy exertions and by an unremitting perseverance in well-doing on your behalf he acquired such a degree of influence over you all as that you felt that the utmost deference was due to his opinion on all occasions of difficulty? Have you not even delighted to pay to the worth and excellence of his character—as manifested in the two-fold capacity of Elder and Manager—the unbought tribute of respect and esteem?

“Nor was it only as an Office-bearer in this congregation that the deceased won the respect and the gratitude of those around him. As your representative Elder, he not unfrequently took part in the superior Church Courts, and an interest in the general concerns of the body to which we professedly belong. It is doubtless creditable to his memory that, along with one other member of the Legislative Council, he received the thanks of the Synod within the current year for his exertions on behalf of the interests of this Church—especially during the last session of Parliament; and that he should be deemed worthy of being one of 5 commissioners appointed with full power to give the formal sanction of the Synod to what is known as the Commutation Scheme—a scheme which is now happily effected, and which promises to prove a blessing not only to the people of our days but likewise to generations yet unborn.

“But this is not all: It was not only as an Office-bearer in this congregation, or in connection with the general interests of the Church, that the deceased distinguished himself. Though he came to this country and to this neighbourhood without any of the means of acquiring adventitious distinction, he gradually attained a marked ascendancy in the community among whom his lot was cast. This was probably owing to that good sense which he possessed in such a remarkable degree, to that prudence and caution which he exercised, and which were the fruits of that masculine understanding with which he was naturally endowed. It is not unworthy of notice, moreover, that without sacrificing any of his dignity, without any artifice or flattery he had a wonderful facility of accommodating himself to all sorts of society, and of rendering himself acceptable to all classes. But it was to those who have to labour with their hands for their daily bread that he manifested himself a special friend.

This may have been more obvious at that period when there were in this locality few men of enterprise besides himself; but even latterly, or during the last few years of his life, such was his activity of mind, strengthened by habit, that through his instrumentality the temporal happiness of many a family was greatly promoted; and, we are persuaded, that, much as his death may be lamented by the public in general, his loss will be deeply felt by the class to whom we have just alluded. One of our oldest trees has indeed fallen, whose luxuriant branches afforded shelter and comfort to not a few households.

“As to the mode of conducting his business which was adopted and strictly acted upon by the deceased, I shall say nothing but simply this, that I do believe that the public possessed the utmost confidence in his integrity. His probity, so far as I know, was never suspected. It was admitted by all that he was strictly, even in the broadest sense of the term, a straight-forward, honest man.

“As to the personal piety of him, whose loss we this day lament, there could be no doubt. At what period of his life he became a converted man we have no means of knowing; but not a few of you know better than I do to what extent he exhibited during the course of a long residence amongst you the fruits of a living faith. It was during the period of his illness, however, that the strength of his faith became more apparent. It is most true that to pass judgement on one's character and state in the sight of God, from feelings expressed under the languour of disease, and from expressions uttered amid the pains of dissolving nature, were unwarrantable temerity, inasmuch as the tastes, the sentiments, the pursuits of habitual life make up character, and in general indicate our actual state; and on these generally ought our opinion to be grounded, in as far as it belongs to us to decide. Nevertheless on the approach of death we anxiously look for indications of interest in the Saviour; and in the case before us these were very ample. On being informed of the dangerous character of the disease with which he was afflicted, and of the probability of its soon proving fatal, the deceased calmly and deliberately set his house in order like one who knew and felt that the time was at hand when he would be no longer steward. He then directed much of his time and thoughts to the things of eternity, and, although he sometimes expressed a wish to remain somewhat longer here for the sake of those whom he deeply loved, yet his language was that of perfect resignation to the will of the Almighty; and he seemed to feel to realize the thought that, lovely as the scene was immediately around him, it was not to be compared to the green pastures and the still waters of the Paradise above. His last hours were hours of extreme pain and weakness; but they were much devoted

to prayer; and the last words which he was heard distinctly to utter were an invitation to his weeping family around him to unite in supplication for his soul. Shortly after he died calmly in body and in mind, testifying as by a voice out of Heaven how holy and righteous the ways of God are with His children, how great their peace is, how inviolable their security.

“By the death of him, whom we last Thursday consigned to the grave, you have sustained a severe loss, and I have been bereaved of a friend. But is it not consolatory to think that, when situated as we this day are, death is not an eternal sleep, that he, whom we dread as the spoiler of our friendship, is but the messenger who conveys the departed to the realms of bliss. And, having before us another lesson, of which we have recently had so many, as to the uncertainty of life, how anxious should we be that we ourselves may not by our carelessness or by our impinence be cast out whilst those, for whom we mourn, are permitted to enter into peace and to walk in their own uprightness in the presence of Jesus and before the Throne of God.”

FERGUS, 21st September, 1855.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Will you permit me to record a few notes in “The Presbyterian,” connected with a visit which I lately paid to “Owen's Sound.” I hope that, after perusing my narrative, which I shall endeavour to condense, you and your readers will pardon my obtruding this communication upon public notice because of the object, which, I trust, will be obvious to all.

When contemplating acceptance of my present charge, I was quite aware that a part of the duty of our minister at Fergus is, to do all in his power for the population in the country behind and onwards to “Owen's Sound” and its vicinity. Accordingly, finding that I had the first Sabbath of the present month at my disposal, I resolved upon a journey as far as Sydenham. With this view I left home on Tuesday the 28th ult. The township next to Nichol is Arthur, in a north-west direction, which is, I may say, the course of the entire “Owen Sound Road,” although after leaving Arthur the line is more nearly north. Distant thirteen miles from Fergus is the village of Arthur. It has the highway or public road to the “Sound” passing through it, as has each village from it to Sydenham. Throughout the township there is quite a number of members, adherents, and friends of our Church, who are anxious to have her worship, preaching and ordinances, administered among them. Most of them regard her as “the Church of their fathers,” and are disposed to appreciate her excellency in imparting “the Truth as it is in Jesus,” and in training her children to be “sound in the faith.” A large proportion are, I believe, from the