

yearly contributions have reached the magnificent sum of \$454,000. This Heaven-approved work has ever received your influence and assistance. In every good word and work you have abounded.

We recognize in the work of the ministry of the Word of God a most noble calling in life. The men so engaged are treading in the footsteps of the Captain of our salvation. A minister in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a benefactor; his mission is to go about continually doing good. You have labored long and faithfully in word and doctrine. Your brethren in Christ, having learned of your long service, have delegated us to come to you and express the high appreciation of your most valuable services, your purity of life, your faithfulness and constant devotion to our blessed Lord. Over fifty years in the ministry, always in the front of the battle, with an unblemished reputation, is something of which your brethren feel truly proud and will most humbly strive to imitate.

By all your ability in the work of the ministry is recognized. You have ever shown yourself a workman that need not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth. Your pulpit services have been of the highest order. On all occasions your brethren have felt confident of your ability to represent the cause of Christ. Never at any time have you given an uncertain sound. Most faithfully have you declared the whole counsel of God to saint and sinner, and through your ministry of love the Lord Jesus has seen many enter His holy service. You most surely enjoy the promise, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

You have labored extensively in the Kingdom. From one end of this island to the other you have preached the gospel. Your name has become a household word. Your children in the gospel are in all the churches. You have visited the sick, prayed with and encouraged the dying, buried our dead, comforted the surviving, and married our young people. You have gone everywhere preaching the word. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have been blessed by your labors in the gospel, some of whose churches are monuments of your earnestness and efficiency in the work. The language of Dryden may be applied to you:

"Wide was his parish, not contracted and close
In streets, but here and there a straggling house,
Yet still he was at hand without request
To serve the sick, to succor the distressed."

Your contributions to the press have been many during the fifty years of your ministry, and they have won the respect and approval of your brethren. In the world of polemics your adversary always found "a foeman worthy of his steel." Through the press, as well as from the pulpit, you have given to others your best thought, and helped to a better understanding of the Word of God. If your conclusions have not always been accepted, your articles have had the happy effect of stimulating your readers to more vigorous thought and to deeper and more thorough research.

Your brethren in the ministry can not allow this opportunity to pass without noticing the sympathy and help extended to young men entering upon and engaged in the work of the ministry. Amid the discouragements and hardships they have had to encounter, you have ever proved yourself a wise counsellor and a kind friend. For this service of love you have our undying respect and heartfelt thanks. Love can never die nor prove unfaithful. Then, by the help

of God, may we ever be your friends in every time of need.

But what shall we say of your Christian home? Here we feel like pausing ere we enter its sacred portals. It has ever been a Christian home—a place where Christ has been enthroned in the hearts of all; a holy shrine; a home for the orphan; a meeting place for kindred spirits. To your home you have ever extended a most hearty welcome to the brethren in Christ, and especially to those engaged in the work of the ministry—to them it has ever been a comfortable, Christian home.

We do not mean to close this address without making mention of our well beloved Sister Crawford, who has so nobly walked by your side through the majority of those fifty years. She has proved herself a helpmate indeed. Her loyalty to the cause of Christ has always been most apparent. She has shared your discouragements and privations and rejoiced in your triumphs, and helped in every way possible to make your ministry a complete success. By all who have been favored with her acquaintance she has been loved and respected. Our prayers to God are that she may long be spared to enjoy with you many years of increased happiness in the Kingdom of Christ, that your last days may be your best, and, when the end comes, may you have a peaceful hour in which to enter the rest and home for which you both so faithfully labored in the Lord. God bless you both. And, as a faint expression of the love and esteem of your brethren in Christ, please accept this purse of gold.

Bro. Crawford had the hardest part of all to fill. The Christian, as he is great, is humble. He naturally feels that the kind words of friends are too kind, and the value they put upon his services is too great. We feel sure the readers will be pleased to have the opportunity of reading the reply by Bro. Crawford, which we here insert.

DEAR BRETHREN—In response to your kind address, and the astonishing demonstration of Christian affection and esteem behind it, I ask you, and the many friends you represent, to accept of my most hearty thanks. I think you have, as is apt to be the case, exaggerated my feeble attempts to do good, for when I contrast what I have done in the cause of Christ with what I might have done, the words come, with ringing emphasis, "I am an unprofitable servant."

With you I rejoice that in the marvellous march of civilization of the last fifty years, the increase of gospel light has led the van. Many nations which sat in darkness now have the true light shining among them. Even Christendom is changing, growing weary of sectarian strife and hungering and thirsting for Christian union. Very many in different communions who love the Lord are longing for the time when they can sit down in full fellowship with everyone who is spiritually related to the Son of Man. Men are finding out slowly but surely that things outside the Bible and not things in the Bible are separating the people of God, and that the Bible without the aid of human creeds is the only safe guide to Christ and through Him to heaven.

Fifty years ago the people known as Christians or Disciples of Christ were few in number, and although their grand plea was for the union of all the people of God, they were misunderstood; yet they struggled on, pleading with the unconverted to be reconciled to God. They urged them to believe with all their heart in Jesus, and to obey Him, that

they might have His promise of pardon and of the Holy Spirit. Many heard and believed in the Saviour and turned unto the Lord like men did at first as recorded in the Acts of Apostles.

They contended that Christians should be united in one body with no name but the name of Christ, no spirit but the Spirit of Christ, and no creed but His creed, so that being thus united in love they might labor together for the salvation of the lost. Many examined their plea and united with them, and thus their numbers were increased.

When Disciples do wrong they must suffer for it, but when they do right God blesses them and they grow in number and in influence. Contending only for the religion of Christ it commends itself to men's conscience in the sight of God.

As the time is drawing near when I shall have to give an account of myself to God, especially for the labors of the last fifty years, it may not be amiss to give my present impressions of these labors. And, first, I see many imperfections and shortcomings in my life as a Christian. Through Divine mercy I expect all these blemishes to be washed out in the Blood of the Lamb, and to enjoy the eternity of a sinner saved by grace. But in a retrospect of my preaching and teaching I see no particular reason for change further than in greater earnestness. When pleading with men to be reconciled to God I have stood behind the Cross and the Saviour's last commission and spoken of Jesus and His love. When pleading with the saved to abide in Christ and gain eternal life I have stood behind the Sermon on the Mount and there have spoken of Jesus and his love, and now I can see no reason for material change.

What I owe to God for giving me a measure of success in such a work I can never express.

For the present substantial token of the approval of brethren and friends, I can only pray that it may not be overlooked by Him who has said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is no small favor to be thus remembered by nearly all the churches where I have labored from the beginning, as well as by many friends in other lands.

In the address you have kindly mentioned her whom a Gracious Providence has made my life companion, and alluded to our joint labors, such as supporting mission work, entertaining Christians, especially those who labor in word and doctrine; encouraging young men who are struggling for fitness to preach the gospel, etc., etc. We would say in reply, as time is short and so much to be done, we esteem it a great privilege to engage in these things and the doing of them a blessed luxury, for which we thank the Father in heaven.

Again, kind friends, we ask you to accept of our sincere thanks for this generous meeting, and unite with us in "thanks unto God for his unspeakable gift."

The chairman called upon George Manifold, who said that the influence of this man of God had girdled the earth, as his sons in the faith were preaching the gospel in home and foreign fields.

Elder H. E. Cooke spoke approvingly of Donald Crawford as an expounder of the Scriptures, and of the benefit and help he had received from his instruction.

The singing of "God be with you till we meet again" by the choir, and the pronouncing of the Benediction by Elder D. Crawford brought this memorable jubilee celebration to a close.