

to subsidize Colleges, and through them religious denominations, would become in the hands of a Government a powerful means of influencing constituencies. On every ground it will be a thing to be deplored, if the Legislature shall accede to the memorials already presented, or which may be presented, for grants from the public treasury for denominational colleges. We trust the representatives of the people will be firm, and that they will not take a step which it may be difficult or impossible to retrace.

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“NOT LOST BUT GONE BEFORE.”

LETTER FROM REV. DR. BURNS.

KNOX COLLEGE, January 22, 1868.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—For ten years past, I have been in the habit of devoting our College Christmas Holidays, to what I have sometimes called, my “Sleigh Mission.” In every instance, two Sabbaths, and in the greater number three, have been thus appropriated; and by means of these, and the intervening week days, I have been enabled to range over a considerable field, and to do a good deal of missionary and sacramental work. On one occasion, the state of the roads and of the weather generally interposed a serious obstacle in the way of carrying out my wishes; and in the case of 1867–8 a painful domestic affliction arrested my movements, when about two-thirds of my plan had been completed. “God moves in a mysterious way;” and I desire to be “dumb,” “not opening my mouth;” just because the Lord hath done it; and his will must always be best, simply because *it is the will of a wisdom that cannot err, and a goodness that is boundless.* On Wednesday, December 18th, my son was with us at a social meeting in Gerrard Street, prior to the temporary separation of the members of our female educational circle; and he was then apparently in perfect health, and in good spirits. I left home on the 20th, on my tour to the north, and saw him not again till Friday, January 3rd, and then he was in the latter stages of a fatal inflammatory affection of the liver and lungs. The whole of my first week was occupied in sacramental engagements connected with the congregations of my excellent friend, Mr. Christie, lately inducted into the charge of Mono centre, embracing two regular stations along with three subordinate or occasional ones. Christmas eve was devoted to a large union Sabbath School meeting in our place of worship at Orangeville, where the settlement of Mr. Steele, from Nova Scotia, has been recently consummated under very promising circumstances. From Friday, December 27th to Tuesday 31st, my missionary visits were devoted to four stations in the townships of Melancthon and Mulmur; namely, Mulmur centre, Honeywood, Horning’s Mills, and a station on the “gravel road” to Owen Sound. The aspect of things at all these points is very encouraging; the attendance good; the attachment of the people to our church growing in strength; and lively gratitude expressed for the acceptable and successful labours of the various missionaries whom the Presbytery of the bounds have had it in their power to send up for several years past. From the seven elders, and from Mr. Airth, of Horning’s Mills, though not a member of our church, I met with much kindness; and in the prospect of two places of worship being soon erected, there is not a doubt as to these combined stations being soon formed into one self-sustaining pastoral charge. My next visit was to Proton, within the Presbytery of Grey, the sphere of the labours, at six different points, of our indefatigable Gaelic and English “ordained missionary,” Mr. John Morrison. His position being considerably off the “Gravel Road,” and rather remote, and the settlement being