

keep the Lord's day with reverence, to observe his worship with regularity, to support his cause, to honor father and mother, and have respect to The Commandments of God, than to merely testify with the lip to a high spiritual experience. It was a religion which was humble, and silent, but which tried to walk in the Statutes of the Almighty. It flourished in obscurity, and was as faithful in ministering to a score of poor people as though the occasion and the numbers were much more imposing. Toiling through storms of snow and frost, or roads almost impassable with mud, to reach that handful of people, and keeping this up for forty years without break or cessation, faithful in all the varied duties and offices of the ministry, keeping every appointment, taking part in every work that was conducive to the welfare of the people, visiting and preaching from house to house, undergoing the trials of life with patience, and bearing the burdens of the people in a spirit of sympathy, preaching from Sabbath to Sabbath at stations far apart from one another, and doing this from one year to another without thought of a holiday, doing it all in contented submission to the divine will, "knowing how to be abased and how to abound; everywhere and in all things instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

One would imagine that a record of this kind—that one who had lived in this way, would at the close of such a career be regarded with honour, and be willingly supported in the declining years of his life by the church at large with a measure of comfort. But such does not appear to be the estimate which our church places on the life spent in that way. Indeed it would appear as if length of service and experience in the work of the church, constituted no claim to additional confidence, no claim to honour. The old and faithful minister is in many cases, regarded not as one whom it should be an honour to cherish, but as an encumbrance to be got rid of, and for