

ment in the arduous duties, to which you are called, and as an assurance that your labors are not in vain in the Lord.

Please convey to Mrs. Patterson, whom we gladly hail as an "helpmeet for thee," the high esteem and best wishes of the mothers and daughters of your congregation, for the domestic comfort and christian weal of yourself and the little ones, which it has pleased God to give unto you.

With earnest prayers to the God of all grace, for his abundant and seasonable blessings to rest upon your person, family and flock, we beg to subscribe ourselves, Dear Sir, Yours most affectionately, in the bonds of the gospel.

Signed in the name of the ladies of Salem Church.

JANET McLEAN,
ANN McCOULL,
JANET REID,
ELIZABETH MCKENZIE.

REPLY.

MY DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS:

It cannot but afford me the sincerest pleasure to receive this kind expression of your regard. Amid the labors, anxieties and trials of a minister, after the approval of the Great Master whom he serves, nothing is so fitted to cheer his heart and strengthen his hands, as the manifestation of affection and esteem on the part of those among whom he labors. In this view your address and present are especially gratifying, and call for gratitude on my part not only to you, but to him who has the hearts of all men in his hands, and who has put into your hearts to manifest your good will in this manner.

I have now been permitted in the Providence of God for more than nine years, to break the bread of life among you, and while the review of my past services, as in the sight of the Great Judge of all, presents so many deficiencies, as to call for deep humiliation before him; yet I rejoice to behold the evidences that my imperfect services have been to some extent owned and blessed of him. I have had to regret that the amount of the public business of the church which has devolved upon me, has often prevented me devoting my time as thoroughly to the interests of the congregation, as I could have desired; yet you have borne with my shortcomings, in this and other respects, and have expressed your appreciation of my

services as a minister, which though indicative of the partiality of friendship, encouraged me to greater efforts for the future.

It gives me pleasure to be enabled to bear the most favourable testimony to this congregation. I have indeed taught as part of the counsel of God, the duty of christian liberality, and this duty the congregation have never failed to exemplify, when occasion offered. I have appealed to them annually on behalf of each of the schemes of the church, and for such other measures of christian benevolence as occasionally presented themselves, and scarcely in a single instance have I failed to receive a contribution liberal in their circumstances. But I have never found it necessary to appeal to them for the discharge of their pecuniary obligations to myself. These the congregation have uniformly met without any solicitations on my part. They have from time to time increased the amount of stipend, and have done so, during the present year, though circumstances were unfavourable. They have also added acts of kindness, which I cannot but remember with thankfulness. Your present "free will offering," valuable in itself, and in your circumstances extremely liberal, I especially value as a testimony of your affection and esteem.

Mrs. Patterson joins me in returning thanks for your expressions of esteem for herself, and of desire for the welfare of ourselves and ours. We remember with gratitude past acts of kindness to us as a family, and we cordially reciprocate such expressions of good will. "The Lord deal kindly with you as ye have dealt with the dead and with us."

In conclusion I would say with the great apostle of the Gentiles, "Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you." And we pledge ourselves to similar efforts on your behalf. Daily will we bow our knees before him from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, soliciting that you "may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding," that you "may abound more and more in every good word and work," and that at length you may be "presented faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."

I remain, Yours, in the bonds of the gospel.

GEORGE PATTERSON.