

Captain, and to them it belongs to deny self, take up the cross and follow him.

That the ministers of the gospel are especially interested in the conversion of sinners and building up the church of Christ, is readily acknowledged. When true to their Master, they keep this object perpetually in view, and do much to promote it. Upon them comes daily the care of all the churches, and they admit the obligation to preach the gospel to regions beyond.

How the fathers of our church toiled and endured, in spreading a knowledge of the truth among the early and scattered settlers of these provinces, the limited memorials of their self-denying labours, preserved to the church amply testify; and there are those living, who could bear witness that the half hath not been told. Records of the missionary exertions of the Apostolical McGregor and Barnabas-like McLean, are to some extent before the church; and they are but specimens of what the lives of their contemporaries might furnish, if they should be written every one of them, to an extent that would astonish many who now enjoy unacknowledged the fruit of their labours, and sit at ease in Sion. The names of Graham, Ross, Brown, Waddell, Dripps, McCulloch, Keir and Douglas, and others of like character are household words in the remotest parts of the church; and they are handed down from generation to generation, in the Graham—Coxes, the Ross—McDonalds, the Waddells—Fishers, the Dripps—Mc Kennas, the Douglas' Dicksons, the McCulloch McCurdys and the Keir—Geddies of the present day. Old men, and women too, relics of the generation fast passing away tell of sermons heard from their lips in their childhood, and of lasting impressions produced upon their minds by familiar counsels received at their knees. With these who have long gone to their reward, may properly be associated the venerable Sprott, who though still lingering on the confines of earth has finished his peregrinations, but has left more footmarks in our wilderness and dropped more sweat upon our pathless wilds in doing rough work for the Master, than any man who survives. He has sown by more waters and ministered to more of our solitary

places than any individual among his associates. His name is perpetuated in the Sprott-Stuarts, Balcanis and Fishers who furnish evidences of the high esteem in which his character and labours are held, where his welcome visits are no longer enjoyed.

Had these men so lived and so laboured under the patronage and oversight of a missionary organization, had records of their perils by sea and by land, over mountains and through wildernesses in summer heat and winter storms been written and preserved, they would have immortalised their authors; and their memoirs would have ranked with those of the Elliots the Brainerds the Careys and the Williamses. But because they were missionaries only in being sent out, and because they laboured among civilized men, and alone, none to care whether they lived or died, and because of their own unassuming estimate of their performances, and multitudinous employments, no permanent record was made of their trials and triumphs, and the place that once knew them will speedily know them no more for ever. The church, planted by their toils, and cherished by their sacrifices and their prayers, is nevertheless their memorial, and their record is on high. Their sons and sons' sons who have entered into their labours furnish illustration of their zeal for the Lord; and the sons of the prophets, trained to take up their mantles when they should lay them aside, indicated their far sightedness and their concern for the generations that should follow them. How they toiled, and how they prayed, and how they contended earnestly for the faith, in providing a native ministry, the whole history of liberal education in these provinces may tell. They found a monopoly of learning in the hands of a dominant church, and, in the face of antagonism that would have daunted less ardent zeal they founded an Institution of learning, which inaugurated a new era in the history of these provinces. They saw disciples of their own training, fellow-helpers in their work, and sharers in their joys; and they left this transitory scene with the assurance that while they were gathered to their fathers, the Lord's work would go on.