

That we have with the deepest regret heard mooted the question of your leaving the Congregation for some other sphere of usefulness.

Under a strong conviction that that event, were it now to take place, would seriously impair the present prosperous condition of the congregation, if not, indeed, as it is to be apprehended, wholly endanger its existence, we are most anxious to avail ourselves of every means within our power, to induce you to relinquish, if you should have formed any intention of leaving us. So much of what is favourable in our present position, both in the congregation and in the Church to which we belong, is attributable to your ability and untiring energy, that the apprehension of losing the advantage of these qualities at the present time is alarming. We cannot doubt that, to an unbiassed judgment fairly considering the whole case, it will manifestly appear that your translation from among us would be attended with consequences disastrous to our ecclesiastical and congregational interests.

We therefore desire to express our earnest hope that a serious consideration of the welfare of the congregation will impress upon your mind the conviction that it is your highest duty to continue to devote your eminent talents to the labours of your present charge; and we fervently pray that, by the blessing of the Almighty, you may be long spared to spend a happy life among us as our most highly esteemed Pastor.

In the course of my three months' absence from Toronto, I visited the States, and collected and purchased a thousand volumes for the College Library of Halifax; supplied Halifax, Pictou, Prince Edward's Island, and the city of St. John, New Brunswick, with preaching on Sabbaths and week-days, to a greater or less extent; visited nearly all the families of the Free Church in the two cities of both Provinces; obtained a subscription of £1000 for the erection of Chalmers' Church in Halifax; opened the Mechanics' Institute as a temporary place of worship in St. John, N.B., and organized the nucleus of the Free Church congregation there. All this, with kindred labours of a similar kind before and since, I looked on and still look on as a donation, if not in money at least in work (which is the same thing) from the Christian members of Knox's Church, Toronto, to their more destitute fellow-members of the body of Christ. Two years after, I made a shorter visit to Nova Scotia, and opened the new Church in Halifax, then under the ministry of my esteemed co-pastor once in Paisley, Mr. Forrester, now the Chief Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia.

While I was in Halifax, in 1847, the temporary erection called Knox's Church, in this city, was burnt to the ground, and the insurance of £400 upon it became the first and highest subscription to the new erection. Had this event not taken place, my people and I might have been worshipping in the brick and wooden erection to this day. As it was, I listened to the voice