

your liberality in gifts to God's treasury. During these thirty years over \$640,000 have been contributed for ecclesiastical and benevolent purposes, and about \$700,000 for the maintenance of the sanctuary, its worship and its work. Over a million and a quarter of dollars has passed through these channels. The successive boards of trustees have managed our financial affairs carefully and efficiently. The architecture of this noble edifice is not disfigured by any mortgage. I hope it never will be.

There is one department of ministerial labor that has had a peculiar attraction to me and afforded me peculiar joy. Pastoral work has always been my passion. It has been my rule to know everybody in this congregation, if possible, and seldom have I allowed a day to pass without a visit to some of your homes. I fancied that you cared more to have a warm-hearted pastor than a cold-blooded preacher, however intellectual. To carry out thoroughly a system of personal oversight, to visit every family, to stand by the sick and dying beds, to put one's self into sympathy with aching hearts and bereaved households, is a process that has swallowed up time, and I tell you it has strained the nerves prodigiously. Costly as the process has been it has paid. If I have given sermons to you, I have got sermons from you. The closest tie that binds us together is that sacred tie that has been wound around the cribs in your nurseries, the couches in your sick chambers, the chair at your fireside, and even the coffins that have borne away your precious dead. My fondest hope is that however much you may honor or love my successor in this pulpit, you may evermore keep a warm place in the chimney of your hearts for the man who gave the best thirty years of his life to your service. Here let me bespeak for my successor the most kind and reasonable allowance of pastoral labors. Do not expect too much from him. Very few ministers have the peculiar passion for pastoral service that I have had, and if Christ's ambassador, who shall occupy this pulpit, proclaims faithfully the whole Gospel of God, and bring a sympathetic heart to your house, do not criticise him unjustly because he may not attempt to make twenty-five thousand pastoral visits in thirty years. House to house visitation has only been one hemisphere of the pastor's work. I have accordingly endeavored to guard the door of yonder study so that I might give undivided energy to preparation for this pulpit. You know, my dear people, how I have preached and what I have preached. In spite of my interruptions, I have honestly handled each topic as best I could. The minister that foolishly

runs races with himself is doomed to an early suicide. All that I claim for my sermons is that they have been true to God's Book and the Cross of Jesus Christ, have been simple enough for a child to understand, and have had for each full view of the judgment seat, I have aimed to keep this pulpit abreast of all great moral reforms and human progress, and the majestic archings of the kingdom of King Jesus. The preparation of my sermons has been an unspeakable delight. The manna fell fresh every morning, and it had to me the sweetness of angels' food.

Ah, there are many sharp pangs before me! None will be sharper than the hour that bids farewell to yonder blessed and beloved study. For twenty-eight years it has been my daily home, one of the dearest spots this side of heaven. From its walls have looked down upon me the inspiring faces of Chalmers, Charles Wesley, Spurgeon, Lincoln and Gladstone, Adams, Storrs, Guthrie, Newman Hall, and my beloved teachers Charles Hodge and the Alexanders of Princeton. Thither your infant children have been brought on Sabbath mornings awaiting their baptism. Thither your older children have come by hundreds, to converse with me about the welfare of their souls. Thither have come all the candidates for admission to the fellowship of the church, and have made there their confession of faith and their allegiance to Christ. O what blessed interviews with inquirers have been held there! What sweet and happy fellowship with my successive bands of elders, some of whom have joined the general assembly of the redeemed in glory! That hallowed study has been to me sometimes a Bochim of tears, and sometimes a Hermon, when the vision was of no man save Jesus only. And the work right there has been a wider one for a far wider multitude than these walls contain this morning. I have written there nearly all the hundreds of articles which have gone out through the religious press, over this country, over Great Britain, over Europe, over Australia, Canada, India, and New Zealand. During my ministry I have published about 3200 of these articles. Many of them have been gathered into books; many of them translated into Swedish, Spanish, Dutch, and other foreign tongues. They have made the scratch of a very humble pen audible to Christendom. The consecrated pen may be more powerful than the consecrated tongue. I devoutly thank God for having condescended to use my humble pen to the spread of His Gospel, and I purpose with His help to spend much of the brief remainder of my life in preaching His glorious Gospel through the press.

I am sincerely sorry that the necessities of