

splendour of imagery and rhetoric, not with the wisdom of words, but with a most powerful and vivid realization of the wondrous verities of the Unseen World. To him Heaven and Hell were at hand; God was ever present; the sinner had to be saved or he would be lost forever. He was in earnest. He struggled and grappled and fought with the world, the flesh and the devil, as men fight for victory in the day of sorest battle. It was in his closeness to God that his great strength lay. He would never preach or teach but what he actually realized. The Eternal World with all its unspeakable things, was to him at hand, as real as the earth he trod on or the air he breathed. The Judgment Day was near, it was near and hastened greatly, and hence his ardour and ceaseless urgency. The crucified Redeemer was ever in his heart, and His most sweet praises ever on his lips.

He made himself all things to all men with an amount of success rarely equalled, never surpassed. So far did he go in this direction, that he dressed, ate and lodged like the Chinese and with the Chinese. He knew no denominational, national or personal jealousies. Christian charity and self denial were exemplified in his life from his College days till he died a lonely stranger far away from home and kindred and the graves of his fathers. Thanks be to the bountiful Giver of all good for such an Epistle, so plainly written by the finger of the Spirit. Thanks be to Him that He raises up witnesses for the truth, who are willing to go to the ends of the earth to declare the Truth as it is in Jesus,—to live solely for this purpose, and calmly to die when their work is done. O what a contrast does such a life present, to the fever and the fret of the little selfish lives that are spent with a view to the narrow bounds of this world and to more earthly interests! How grand the life that is bright with the light of God, in contrast with the life that withers under the cold blighting shadow of Mammon. It is a glory to Scotland, a glory to Presbyterianism, a glory to Evangelical religion to have given, under God, such a man, as William C. Burns to the modern church.

The record of his life is full of solemn teaching to us all—and oh! how full of rebuke! When he realized the truth, when he found Christ, he spared no effort, he feared no danger, in telling others the story of the Cross. Of a fine constitution and a sturdy frame, he often preached from ten to twenty times in a week. Often he spent ten or twelve hours of the twenty-four in converse with anxious inquirers. Under his preaching, Scotland was roused into a great and far-extending revival,—a movement which prepared the church to encounter the sore trials of the disruption. Similar effects crowned his labours in England and Canada; and even among the stolid and ignorant Chinese there came a time when the fire of faith and love burned brightly, and Amoy became a beacon light for all the surrounding mission fields. When he saw the path of duty before him he never hesitated, even though armies of aliens, filled with suspicion and hate, were around; though robbers and murderers lurked on every side. When he was accepted as a Missionary to China by the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church, the Synod asked him when he would be ready to start. "To-morrow!" was the prompt reply of this true soldier of the Cross. This promptitude characterized him all through his bright and wonderful career.

The leading facts of his life are briefly told. He was the son of a well known Scottish minister. Dr. Burns, late of Toronto, was his uncle. He was born in 1813. His conversion he dates from 1831. He was then entering on the study of law; but he relinquished this study at once and devoted himself to Theology, with a view to the gospel ministry. He became a very superior scholar, both as a linguist, a mathematician and a theologian. He preached in his father's church in Kilsyth, in 1839, and his preaching was followed by a most wonderful out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. He then supplied Mr. McCheyne's church in Dundee, while Mr. McCheyne himself was in Palestine. Here, too, his labours were abundantly blessed. In many towns, and in country districts throughout Scotland, he preached, and the result was a