

men of old, though in their graves over 2,000 years, were yet speaking, and influencing men's lives,—that their life of faith did not die when the sod of the valley was laid over their heads, that they continued to speak for ages afterwards—that age after age, generation after generation, would hear them speak, though their lips were sealed with the emphatic silence of death. And, dear friends, what a truth there is in these words! Even now, when eighteen centuries have been added to the centuries since the Patriarch Abraham fell asleep and his voice was hushed in death, how powerfully does he still speak! The man or woman is not to be envied who can read the events of his life, and especially the terrible test of his faith, and not have their faith in Abraham's God strengthened and deepened. How often have I pictured that touching scene where the sorrow-stricken father, with his only child in one hand, and the fire and knife in the other, climbed the steep of Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son at the command of God. I have thought of it till father and child seemed standing before me; till I could discern that deep mysterious wonder on the furrowed face of the Patriarch, and the strange enquiring look in the innocent eyes of the child as he gazed up in his father's face and said, "My Father, here is the wood, there is the fire and knife, but where is the lamb for burnt offering?" And we can conceive the flash of Faith, as it stepped on the throne of that brave heart and replied in triumph, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for burnt offering." This is the faith by which Paul says, "He being dead yet speaketh." And in further consideration of these words I shall endeavour to show you that it was the like precious Faith in the soul of him whose earthly career has so suddenly closed in this place that enabled him to leave behind him such an influence for good, that has enabled us to say of him that "being dead he yet speaks." It is not often we meet with a life so consistent from first to last as his; a life in which, for a quarter of a century, the same decided piety and faith, the same love for Christ and the salvation of souls, are maintained unshaken. In the changes of country and circumstances, in the chequered life of one who has been

student, teacher, missionary and pastor, often in the most trying times and events, it is rare to find such a steadfast adherence to principle and duty, and such strong faith in God and man, as I believe may be found in the life of him who, though dead, is yet speaking. In looking back over the twenty years during which he preached the Gospel, I find many testimonies to these virtues of character of which I have spoken. Men in the highest positions in his native country assure us that in his duties as an instructor of youth, and also as a missionary of the cross in some of the remote districts of Orkney and Shetland for several years, he displayed the same zeal and devotion, which to the day of his death were conspicuous features of his character. If I were speaking to those who had not received many unmistakable proofs of this, I should be tempted to quote at length from the certificates I have been allowed to peruse since I came to this place. Out of many in my possession let me give you but one brief extract from the pen of a man whose name and fame as a scholar have since gone out into many lands. Speaking of him as a dear friend in 1853, Dr. Bryce, of Trinity College, Dublin, says: "He has great warmth of heart, kindness of disposition, candor and sincerity. Though by nature mild and amiable, he nevertheless displays much energy and firmness of character when necessity requires their exercise. His talents, which are of a high order, are well seconded by habits of labor and persevering study; while the self-denying discipline of his private life proves the fixedness of his purpose and the earnestness of his literary inclinations. Our frequent conversations enabled me to perceive that his acquirements were solid as well as varied and extensive." And speaking of his ministerial qualifications twenty-one years ago, a clergyman, for whom he had often officiated, says, "From the rectitude of his principles, the steady consistency of his conduct, his unblemished life and character, and his well known zeal and activity, it is my conviction that he is qualified to discharge with high efficiency and success the duties of a minister of the gospel wherever Providence may call him to labor." I might add to these the testimony of many