

hearts when you have opened to us the Scriptures within the Sanctuary, when you have counselled and directed us in private, in the great matters of our souls salvation, or when you have sat by the couch of the dying and unfolded to the drooping soul the hope of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The termination of a connection of this kind is always solemn and affecting, and calculated to awaken many serious and sad reflections. He who has long exercised the charge of a people becomes familiar with their most intimate cares, and learns to be partaker of all the deepest experiences and feelings of their nature. We may be allowed to state on the present occasion that the closing hour of your ministry among us, is an hour that is fraught to us with sadness and fear. We remember the faithful labour of your life, the untiring zeal and devotion which you have manifested for the good of our souls, during the period of eight years, and while bidding you farewell we pray God that we may be enabled to appropriate and improve all the lessons of truth we have received from your lips, and all the high and holy influences which have beamed upon us from your life and conversation.

That the great Head of the Church may prosper your labors in the new field to which in His providence He has called you, and that the blessing of Almighty God may richly descend on you, and your worthy partner and family, is our earnest and affectionate prayer.

We respectfully beg your acceptance, in the accompanying purse of sovereigns, as a small token of our regard.

In the name and behalf of the congregation we subscribe our respective names.

WM. SUTHERLAND,	} Elders.
WM. McDONALD,	
ALEX. McDONALD, junr.,	
ALEX. McDONALD, senr.,	
GEORGE SUTHERLAND,	
DAVID SUTHERLAND,)

REPLY.

Dear Friends :

Having given separate verbal replies to these kind addresses, I would now, as promised reply in a more permanent form. To avoid repetition of words and ideas, and also to avoid all seeming preferences, I conceive it better to give a conjoint reply.

Having publicly stated what led to the resigning of these large and important charges, it may not be necessary or productive of any practical good to do so now, I could however observe that ever since I could form any just estimate of ministerial responsibilities, I regarded it no ordinary matter to undertake the pastoral charge of any people and especially of one embracing so many immortal souls; and I consequently have felt that no trivial reasons could justify the dissolution of

the pastoral relationship. There was more-over very much in my connection with you that served, in no common degree to deepen these sentiments and feelings, and to render it very difficult to think of serving these connecting ties. There was the strong associations which bind to one's native land—a land possessing many pleasing and alluring attractions; there was the close ties of kindred, which must weigh powerfully with every tender and social heart; there was the growing and deepening interest in the true and lasting welfare of the thousands to whom I had administered sacred ordinances; and there was what is not less influential in drawing forth the tenderest and purest affections of the soul—the interchange of religious sentiment and christian fellowship with those who were manifestly of Christ's fold. I write what I have deeply felt, when I assert that it was one of the sorrest experiences of my life to the decisive conclusion, that there was sufficient cause why these binding associations as regards personal enter change, should be dissolved; and having earnestly sought divine sight and guidance in coming to a decision, I at length became firm in the persuasion that the course taken was justified and approved by the Great King and Head of the Church—and this persuasion alone served to induce me to carry it out.

And now that the pastoral tie which existed between us during more than one half of my ministerial labours, is dissolved, I feel in some respect deeper interest and more anxious concern for you. And while in the exercise of thought many of my most earnest feelings and strongest attractions of my soul shall go forth towards you. I cannot but often revert in solemn thought to the many, whom in a bed of sickness and death I sought, in God's name, to counsel, admonish and comfort, and to all to whom I spoke the words that are a savor of life or of death;—and when it is duly considered that we must all appear and respectively answer on the solemn day of account, and receive an eternal recompense, I cannot but feel that these lessons have not been urged with half the earnestness and faithfulness, which the vast and lasting importance of the subject demands. May each of us learn to realise this more deeply in the future. At the same time one of the most consolatory thoughts that occupies my mind, is that there is good reasons to believe, that there are seals of my ministry among you, and that there are general tokens that my labors among you have not been in vain in the Lord. And my fervent prayer is, that every one to whom I administered the Holy Sacraments may adorn the doctrine of our Lord and Saviour; that every one under my care, and every one to whom I spoke the words of eternal life may be washed in the blood that is sufficient to cleanse from all sin,—that we may yet be made prepared, with one heart and one mind,