

before this church—which may God help them to work out to His praise!—is to prove that, in the absence of the beloved pastor, the Holy Spirit still has there His seat, and will demonstrate His presence by the uninterrupted work He administers. We shall be greatly disappointed and surprised, should there be found there any disposition to say, “I am of *Gordon*” rather than “I am of *Christ*.” This church is not a mere sheaf of which the late pastor was the bond, and which, now that the bond has broken, must fall apart. We have confidence that the work Dr. Gordon left behind him will in the noblest sense both survive and follow him, and that no part of it which ought to outlive his personal presence will either decay or decline.

Let those who would rear above such a man the broken column of an unfinished life work, note how God permitted him to tarry until, like Moses, he had led the people of God to the borders of their inheritance; till he had written his “Psalm of Life” in the “Coronation Hymnal;” till he had shown them the Divine pillar of cloud and fire in the Spirit’s leadership, and until he had finished his Pentateuch, leaving only the last chapter to be added. He had written nine books, yet they fall naturally into *five* classes. “The Ministry of Healing” stands alone. “The Twofold Life,” “In Christ,” “Grace and Glory,” and “Ecce Venit,” belong together, for they exhibit Christ’s work in us and for us, here and hereafter; “The Holy Spirit in Missions” and “The Ministry of the Spirit” form a pair, and his “Hymnal” and “Spiritual Biography” complete the fivefold group.

To his beloved wife he imparted his impression that his work was drawing to a close. He even said to her that if it should be so he would have four hymns sung: “The sands of time are sinking,” “My Jesus, I love Thee,” “Lord, if he sleep he shall do well,” and “Abide with me.” To one, who was to him what Luke was to Paul, “the beloved physician,” and who asked for a message, he gave one word—“VICTORY.”

There is an advantage in a man’s departing in the midst of his prime, when in every respect at his best. We remember men as they are when they leave us; our latest impressions are our lasting impressions. When a man dies in the glory of his complete manhood we have him forevermore with us as he was when he departed, and his influence survives him as it was at its summit of power. When men grow old, feeble, decrepit, and the mind and memory decay, and they verge on imbecility, their influence often declines; they not infrequently commit serious mistakes, which mar the impression of their lives. Dr. Gordon will be remembered as the full-statured man, whose power was full-orbed, and whose sunset was without a cloud. He is forever beyond the possibility of marring his own life work even by imprudence or incaution, and no one else can impair its symmetry. When his character and career reached their nearest approximation to the ideal, God suddenly crystallized the vision into permanence, and so it will forever stand for men to contemplate and imitate.