

and benevolent enterprises of the city, I believe that I express a conviction all but universal among those who had the pleasure and honour of your acquaintance, that there is not among all the ministers of the city one more faithful, active, zealous, and laborious than yourself—none more ready to engage in every good work, to sympathize with suffering, and to alleviate distress.

There was nothing that surprised me more at the meeting, than to find that your very ardour to extend, as a missionary, a christian influence beyond the ordinary sphere of your labours as the Pastor of a congregation, should have been brought as a charge against you, and nothing appeared to me more unreasonable than to seek your removal while declaring that your very absence on missionary duty lessened the attendance of hearers although the congregation was left under the charge of worthy and talented ministerial substitutes. The more common complaint against Pastors is, that they limit their labours to the narrow circle of their own flock, or perhaps to the still narrower sphere of pulpit services. The spiritual welfare of a congregation may be greatly subserved, in my opinion, by the cultivation of a missionary spirit on the part of its Pastor. Besides, it is surely better to recruit the energies of a Pastor by travelling occasionally as a missionary at home, than as an invalid abroad. I believe that much of the physical and mental energy you possess at your advanced age, may be traced to your ceaseless activity—your unwearied labour in doing good.

The law of Christ, I fear, has either been overlooked or disregarded by your opponents in this case. "Rebuke not an Elder, (or Pastor), but entreat him as a Father," is a plain command; and perhaps, had it been practically recognized, would have prevented the difficulties which now unhappily exist.

While I deeply sympathize with you and Mrs. Burns under this severe trial, I pray that you may realize under it the comfort which springs from the light of Jehovah's countenance; that you may come out of it as gold tried in the fire;—that "your righteousness may come forth as the light, and your judgment as the noon day"—and that your present sorrow may, ere long, be turned into joy. Afflictions are often instruments for good:—may you realize them in this case to be the means of great spiritual prosperity.

I am, my dear sir, yours faithfully,

Dr. Burns.

J. LESSLIE.

Toronto, Dec. 10th, 1855.

P. S.—You are at liberty to use this communication publicly should you deem it of any service.

I have reason to think that the sentiments expressed in the letter of Mr. Lesslie are sympathized in by nine-tenths of my congregation, and by not a few of the citizens at large. One proof of this last impression I give in the words of a highly respected member of the English Church, who has kindly sent me the following note:—

MY DEAR SIR,—I assure you it is with much pleasure that I have read in the *Colonist* of this morning, the letter addressed to you by Mr. Lesslie; which expresses so perfectly all that I could say, that I would beg you to receive it as an expression of my own sentiments as well as his. Although I may have occasionally differed in the management of