

on, I dare not regret, have I attended in the course of the thirty-five years of my pastorate.

Three hundred and fifty-five deaths, of the fathers and mothers of many of you, of the husbands and wives of several of you, of your children, your sisters and brothers, your friends and neighbors, are recorded during my ministry, and I believe that at nearly all of these death-beds (the exceptions being few indeed) I have read and recited the truths of the Gospel, urging its admonitions and exhortations, delivering its invitations, presenting its promises, inspiring its hopes, administering its consolations and joys. I can anticipate a joyous meeting with many of those departed ones, to me dear, and by me so remembered as loved and loving friends.

I have united in the holy bands of marriage 393 couples, bringing the sanction of religion to their union, reminding them, according to the Scriptures, of their duties to God and to one another, pointing out, to them how to obtain the blessings promised to those who marry in the Lord, and praying the God of Providence and of Grace to bestow upon them these blessings.

Connected with Perth and St. Andrew's Church and manse are almost all my dearest and fondest family associations as well. It is the birth-place of all my children, the burying-place of four of them; here almost all of them have grown up to adult years.

My relations to almost every family and individual connected with the congregation, during these many years, have been of the most pleasant kind. We have been, as compared with many, indeed, as compared with most congregations, a peaceful, harmonious, and happy congregation. We have not been without our reverses and trials, especially during and since the ecclesiastical changes that have taken place of late years. But our trials have been light; and while, during the last six or seven years, we have sustained a loss of sixty-six (66) families, in consequence chiefly of the churches built at the Ferry and on the 3rd line of Bathurst, the anti-union congregation, and the erection of the recently formed congregation of Balderson and Drummond, yet we should not be discouraged on this account, seeing that the churches at the Ferry and on the 3rd line of Bathurst are but the manifestations of the growing strength of our people, of their desire and preparedness for union, and of their ability, in consequence of union, to have churches erected near to their homes, and to have students employed, and an ordained minister, in the case of Balderson and Drummond, settled and laboring among them.

But while from these causes the congregation is reduced, it should not be regarded as a weak one. If weak, it is not for want of numbers, and still less for want, on the part of those families now composing it, of means to do as much, as many strong and large congregations are doing. We have still eighty (80) families and 186 names on the Communion-roll, not including the recent accession from Knox Church.

On looking at the minutes of the General Assembly for the last year published (1879), I find that, while, in the twenty-four congregations comprised in our Presbytery, ten congregations have a larger number of families than we have, there are eleven who have a smaller number, and two, the same number—that while seven congregations have a larger communion roll than ours, (186) sixteen have a smaller communion roll; or deducting fifty names from