

respect and regard for Mrs. Fletcher and the other members of your family, with whom it has been our pleasant privilege to associate during your incumbency.

Signed, on behalf of the congregation of St. Jude's, Oakville.

JUSTUS W. WILLIAMS, }
ROBERT SMITH, } Churchwardens,
R. S. APPELDE,
E. J. OGDEN, .

Members of Committee appointed to draft address.

REPLY.

OAKVILLE, *May 8th*, 1869.

My Dear Brethren,—The universal kindness that I have received from the members of this congregation, the innumerable tokens of friendship and regard that they have bestowed upon me, the willing co-operation that has been extended to me in the furtherance of the work of the Church, and the cordial welcome with which my visits to your several homes have been greeted, have caused me to be warmly attached to the parish of Oakville, and nothing but a strong sense of duty would compel me to sever the ties that have so pleasantly bound us during the past six years; but in severing those ties I feel that though a trifling distance may separate us, and our connection as minister and people come to a termination, yet we each bear to the other such strong feelings of friendship and affection as separation shall be unable to overcome or lapse of time to quench, and that I go away from your midst bearing with me your cordial good wishes and affectionate regard, and experiencing towards you a strong feeling of love and esteem, arising from a grateful recollection of the many pleasant seasons that we have spent together, and the many high and holy privileges which, in this church, we have unitedly enjoyed during the happiest and most agreeable period of my ministerial life.

When a minister of Christ feels that a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto him, and that woe will be unto him if he does not preach the gospel, he cannot consider that he is entitled to commendation for attempting to fill his appointments; he is only doing his duty. I consequently cannot take any credit to myself for punctuality in attending to the services of the sanctuary, especially as in endeavouring to water you I have been myself abundantly watered, and have very frequently been comforted by the mutual faith which I perceived to exist in both minister and people. If in my public ministrations one penitent has had his thoughts directed to Jesus, if one tempted soul has been pointed to the method of deliverance, or if one wavering Christian has been confirmed in the faith which he was beginning to doubt, and if in my private visitations to the dying beds of your departed relations one sinking spirit has been upheld by the words of comfort that I have been enabled to speak to him, one doubting mind relieved, or one trustful Christian more fully established in the truth that he has received, I shall be more than abundantly repaid for any little fatigue I may have endured, or for any little trouble to which I may have been put in trying to attend upon my duties with punctuality.

I thankfully accept the beautiful present you have bestowed upon me; it will in future years (if I am spared to see them) be a lasting memento of the happiness I have enjoyed while laboring amongst you, and remind me of friendships begun on earth which shall be consummated in heaven in the presence of our common Father.

It is a gratification to me to learn from your address what I have long known from observation, that Mrs. Fletcher and the other members of my family have won the esteem and affection of my flock. They share with me the pains of separation from a people from whom they have uniformly received marks of kindness. They carry away with them a grateful recollection of the friendship and regard that were extended to them, and they will long remember with pleasure the many pleasant seasons of social and Christian intercourse that they have enjoyed while residing among you.

Before concluding I have, in Mrs. Fletcher's name, to thank the ladies of the congregation for the constant proof which they have given of their desire to render her sojourn amongst them pleasant and agreeable, and especially those ladies who,