

which it is still my privilege to hold myself connected.

But waiving all this, we can rejoice that the days of Ecclesiastical pamphleteering thunders are over: I speak, I am sure, the sentiments of every one present, when I say, that every court of our church will welcome our brethren of the Presbyterian church who have hitherto kept aloof from us, whenever they may see the way clear to casting in their lot with us, and that, until then, yea and forever, if so it should be, we bid them God-speed in all their work of faith and labor of love. Dr. MacGregor, I take it, would rejoice with us did he witness so blessed a consummation.

III. And Now, to complete my program, something should be added of our duties and our hopes. But your patience, already exhausted, forbids dwelling on exhortation. In brief, our duties are mainly in the lines indicated. There are others untouched upon even from the point of view of Church work. There is the grand development of Sabbath School effort, though, as regards that, some words require from time to time to be said. Let me only now say, that, whatever else be attempted or effected, I know of no substitute, as yet, for that Shorter Catechism so dear to the hearts of our forefathers, nor, I trust, does Pictou County. There are the various efforts put forth on behalf of Temperance, in regard to which, in the form of total abstinence, well nigh every congregation, like my own with its two hundred and forty members, has its blue ribbon band, or its zealous society under some kindred name. This surely would kindle the enthusiasm of a Dr. MacGregor were he now in our midst, and, I believe that he would agree with me that the healthfullest, surest, means of promoting it, is congregational organization, laying hold, especially of the young, and meddling as little as may be with what are called Politics.

There is Bible and Tract Society work. And all the efforts by which the dissemination of pernicious literature is being counteracted; and there is a host of minor benevolent enterprises in the promotion of which our people are forward. But enough of facts and figures familiar to my hearers as household words.

Looking back one hundred years we see much to encourage. The darkness of dawn is giving place to the brightness of the advancing day. In certain respects Dr. Mac-

Gregor would see alterations which he might stigmatize as innovations. Gaelic is dying out, a blessing, yet not a blessing. I am sorry at the disuse of the old tunes. I am sorry for the disuse, I believe total, of the old-fashioned gatherings in connection with the communion seasons. They served a purpose, and filled a place, which, I am not sure that any substitute supplies. Dr. MacGregor might regard with some horror the rapid introduction of organs. But these are minor matters.

It is hardly to be expected, perhaps not even to be hoped, that our father's modes of regarding, I should rather say, of expressing, doctrines, will last for ever or will continue to be the exact modes approved by, or acceptable to, their sons. "The old order changeth and giveth place to new, and God fulfils Himself in many ways." There is however, but one Bible and its place in the world is to-day, larger than ever it was before. We have a goodly heritage. It is for us to transmit that heritage unimpaired. It cost our fathers much. It ought to cost us, we ought to be at charges affecting it, proportionally not less. I should rejoice were this day commemorated in some tangible form, which should be a permanent record of the spirit in which we have met, either on behalf of Missions, or of education for ministers, for which effort is much needed. We ought to date somewhat, under the name of Dr. MacGregor, from to day, that should mark the reality of our gratitude.

Reviewing the past we see marvellously exemplified the power of our system conjoined with the resolute character of our people, in establishing, by voluntary effort, what has enabled them to distance another system, which a hundred years ago, was largely aided by royal patronage, and which looked down upon other denominations, — Dissenters: it termed them, as from a height of preeminence by Divine right. We cannot afford to slacken our efforts. Away from Pictou I sometimes boast of the Pictou boys, claim that this county has been a nursery of distinguished men, especially in the ministry, and bring proofs to show that Scotland is virtually reproduced in this portion of the Dominion. You will flourish while the ancient indomitable, yet reverent, spirit is cherished. The old motto of Glasgow in Scotland was "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the Word" Be that motto yours. Let your efforts keep pace