

caused us, alas! to be a reproach to that very cause that was nearest and dearest to our hearts. These things we will remember for our good, that we may avoid the stumblingblocks, the rocks of offence of the past, and walk humbly and watchfully and lovingly with our God now that He has been graciously pleased to deliver us from those evils,—blessing us with light and peace and enlargement.

The *present*, however, with its stirring activities, its plain duties, its solemn responsibilities and golden opportunities, is our peculiar and grand concern. We must be up and doing in good earnest if we would not displease our blessed Lord, and lose our crown. Why hath He given us our present strength and position? That we might use it for His glory—he more valiant for the truth, and more indefatigable in promoting his cause in the world. Why hath he given such unexampled success to the labours of our Missionaries among the heathen and elsewhere—so that almost every mail brings us good news from these far countries? Is it not that we may be aroused to deeper solicitude for those who are perishing for lack of knowledge, and put forth greater efforts, both in the way of prayer and liberality, on their behalf? Every additional blessing brings with it increased responsibilities. If our talents be many and precious, we must improve them all the more diligently and faithfully. If the congregations of our Church are intelligent and pious and respectable beyond others, then how great the responsibility of Ministers—how sacred the duty—to labour day and night that they may feed the flock of Christ committed to their charge,—giving to each one the portion of food which his case requires—bringing forth from the treasury of the gospel things new and old for the quickening of sinners and the edification of the body of Christ! If, on the other hand, we are blessed as a Church with well-trained, able and faithful Pastors and Ministers of the Word,—then how solemn our duty, to give good heed to God's message to us by them—to the gospel ordinances they administer—to their admonitions in private, and to the Christ-like example they set before us! How solemn our duty to minister to their temporal wants—"Communicating to them in all good things"—for it is a shameful and cruel thing to starve those who labor for our souls!

Have we a staff of Professors whose wisdom and piety, learning and genius, and varied accomplishments, fit them eminently for their respective chairs,—making our college beyond comparison the best equipped and most efficient one in the Lower Provinces?—then our duty is plain. Let us rally round this Institution with one heart, and as one man. Let our prayers ascend daily to God on its behalf. Let us send our young men thither to be educated, for where can they obtain such good training whatever profession they may afterwards find it their duty to choose? Let us also give it our generous and conscientious support when the yearly offering is made for its maintenance.

Churches, like individuals, must ever bear in mind that the grand end for which they have been called into being is to glorify God. To fail in this one vital point, is to fail in all that is noble, pure, excellent. We, of the *Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces*, will do well to keep this great truth ever in view. If the Lord has "increased our greatness and our comfort on every side," it is not because we are of better desert than others, but because his grace towards us has greatly abounded. If he has given us a great mission to accomplish and a glorious banner to display for the truth, with abundant and most precious opportunities for displaying that banner, and fulfilling that mission,—will not our responsibility be all the more solemn,