

I need scarcely say that I endeavoured to convey, as I now take the opportunity of repeating, my warmest thanks for these tokens of love. My wife, equally with myself, shares my gratitude for the gifts themselves and, even more, for the spirit which prompted the Ladies' Aid Society, the Young Men's Association, and the kind friends of the East End Mission to tender them. Those who were present on that happy evening will remember that, in the course of my necessarily very brief acknowledgments, I stated that, for several months past, I had been thinking of referring, from the pulpit or in some other way calculated to reach the whole Congregation, to the fact of my having now been for more than ten years your Minister, and venturing some remarks about our Church life—what it has been since I knew it, what it is at present, and what it might be in the future. For several reasons, I prefer embodying my thoughts and suggestions in this form to giving utterance to them on the Lord's Day, and I think it will be conceded by all that so considerable a term of ministerial labour and experience entitles any Clergyman to speak with some little authority upon a subject so important to others as well as to himself.

Every life has days and events in its earlier stages which stand out with peculiarly marked prominence, and have a more than ordinary influence upon and connection with the future. I will be pardoned if, as a kind of preface and in order to give greater completeness to the narrative, I mention those of a leading character, relating to former scenes and circumstances and having a bearing upon that portion of my life which I have spent in Canada. To save space, I merely tabulate these as follows :—

- 1864. Nov. 30. Licensed, took holy orders, to preach ; acting as Assistant to the Rev. J. R. Macduff D.D., Minister of Sandyford Parish, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 1865. April 20. Ordained Minister of the Parish of Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on Presentation by Colonel W. Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie, the Patron.
- 1870. Feby. 4. Inducted Minister of the Parish of Glasford, Lanarkshire, Scotland, on Presentation by the Right Hon. the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, the Patron, and on the death of my Father, who had been Minister of that Parish for upwards of 40 years.
- " Sept. 21. Received the offer of Presentation to St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, from Rev. Norman Macleod D.D. of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, one of Her Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland and a Dean of the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood ; Rev. J. R. Macduff D.D. of Sandyford Parish, Glasgow ; and James A. Campbell Esquire, LL.D. of Stracathro and M.P. for the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen, as Commissioners requested and empowered to nominate a Successor to the late Rev. Alexander Mathieson D.D.
- " Sept. 25. Accepted the Presentation to St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, and Process of Translation to that charge from the Parish of Glasford immediately thereafter begun and prosecuted by the Presbytery of Hamilton, Scotland.
- " Nov. 3. Embarked at Liverpool for Canada on board the S.S. Moravian, Captain Robert Brown, Commander.

It was on 13 Nov. 1870 that my family and I arrived in Montreal, from which date our life here begins. It may not be out of place to, at the outset and also in tabulated form, give the leading incidents at the commencement of this period of my Ministry :—

- 1870. Nov. 20. Officiated for the first time in St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, on the occasion of its re-opening and re-consecration, after having been destroyed by fire in October 1869 and restored according to the original plan.
- " " 28. Formally inducted Minister of St. Andrew's Church.
- " " 29. Attended for the first time a meeting of St. Andrew's Church Young Men's Association, at which received an address offering welcome and promising loyal support in the promotion of the work of the Church.
- " " 30. Solemnized first Marriage as Minister of St. Andrew's
- " Dec. 1. " " Burial " Church.
- " " 15. " " Baptism " "
- 1871. Mar. 5. First Administration of the Holy Communion "