

interest in our welfare as individuals, and to whose exertions and counsels, under the blessing of God, we are mainly indebted for our prosperous condition as a congregation. We beg you to accept the accompanying purse of dollars, as a slight expression of our affection and esteem.

In conclusion, we assure you that our best wishes attend you; and our prayer to God is, that he may protect and bless you, guide and cheer you in the discharge of your duties; and that he may abundantly bless your labors in making you the honored instrument of leading many souls to Christ. Farewell.

Signed, on behalf of the congregation worshipping in St. Columba's church,  
by

ALEX. GORDON,  
HUGH FRASER,  
ANGUS McBEAN,

ALEX. DUNBAR,  
ALEX. FRASER,  
THOS. McDONALD, *Elders.*

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#### REPLY

*To Alex. Gordon, Hugh Fraser, Angus McBean, Alex. Dunbar, &c., &c.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS:—I feel deeply touched by your kind address and handsome purse. Let me thank you, and through you the rest of my beloved flock, for your kindly consideration. You say truly that for "upwards of eight years" I have had the privilege of going out and in among you, endeavouring to break to you "the bread of life," and if my poor labours have been instrumental in leading any of you to a knowledge of "the truth as it is in Jesus," I feel thankful to God for His mercy and grace.

Be assured that severing the ties which have so long bound us as Pastor and people, is to me a very painful duty. I came among you to labor in what I may call my native parish, without ministerial experience; and as the successor of men of much ability and faithfulness, I did so with much anxiety, knowing the importance of the charge to which I was called. During the whole period of my ministry among you, I experienced nothing but uniform kindness from you all, and shall ever think of the congregation of West Branch and East River, with feelings of the very deepest esteem and affectionate regard. I trust that, in the good Providence of God, your vacant pulpits may soon be filled, and that my successor shall always meet with the same kindly sympathy and support as I have always received from you. I rejoice to think that I leave the congregation in so prosperous a condition, and shall ever pray for its continued prosperity. I leave you for no other cause than a firm conviction of duty, and shall feel strengthened in my future labours by the assurance that your good wishes and prayers accompany me to the shores of the Pacific.

Finally, may Grace, Mercy and Peace from Father, Son and Holy Ghost, rest upon and abide with you all.

*West Branch, Oct., 1869.*

S. MCGREGOR.

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#### ON SUDDEN CONVERSIONS.

There exists in some truly religious minds a rooted antipathy to anything like suddenness in conversion. Men are in this case sometimes apt to judge only from their own experience; and because they, and all whom they know in the Lord, were brought to the saving reception of the truth by steps slow and almost imperceptible, they think that every one else must be brought in in something of the same way. In opposition to this narrow way of judging, let us take the testimony of analogy, of Scripture, and experience, and we shall find that God does by no means confine Himself to slow and progressive methods of bringing souls to the knowledge of the Saviour.