

very deep interest in his welfare had often already been manifested by them to their minister, and when now they are informed that at his own solicitation he was to be removed, and knew that he was to be removed too to die, sorrow filled their hearts and many of them wept sore. Nor were their effusions of grief the effect of sudden ebullition of feeling or momentary excitement. They left the Church in sadness, and went mourning about the streets. One lady, in particular, to whom he had become very much endeared wept all the way from the Church to her own dwelling, and seemed to be almost inconsolable. Nor has she forgotten since his departure to the land of forgetfulness, to visit his widow and fatherless little ones, though removed to a distance, in the character of a kind and beneficent friend. Indeed, a grateful remembrance of the past has been evinced by many of his former charge, and proofs have not been wanting that his labours among them were not in vain.

"Nor can it be supposed that to a minister, situated as Mr McLean was, possessing peculiarly tender sensibilities, and cherishing ardent affection for his people, the scene to which I have referred could be any thing but painful in the extreme. The deed of Presbytery, in accepting his demission, and the commendation of himself, his family and his flock in prayer by the Moderator, to the care of the Keeper of Israel, deeply affected him even to tears; and when the announcement was to be made to the congregation he summoned all his energies to be present on the occasion. Pale and emaciated, he took a seat among the people to whom he had often joyed to break the bread of life, and with calmness and composure witnessed the pulpit, which had been his officially, occupied by another, whose business it was to tell them that it should be his no more. Though the expression of feeling evinced on the occasion could not but deeply harrow his feelings, he seemed to be quite resigned to the event; and it would have required no great effort of imagination to put into his mouth the language of Paul: "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart?" To me it was exceedingly affecting to see him, when a little relaxed after service, follow with his moistened eyes, from the window of the vestry, the beloved partner of his bosom in a visit to the grave of their first born, and to hear him remark that another trial awaited *her*, when she must be separated from the ashes of the dead. In himself for the time, the emotions of the minister seemed to be sovereign, and to hold in restraint, if not in suspense, every subordinate feeling."

Before quitting the scene of his labours he once more joined with the people of his late charge in partaking of the memorials of the Saviour's death, and thus at the very spot, in which of all others, a Presbyterian clergyman would desire to part with his flock, again to meet them at the judgment seat of Christ, that spot in which all that is solemn in a pastoral relation on this side of the veil of death concentrates, that spot in which to the people of his charge he could say, this day and here, "I call God for a record upon my soul," that "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God," that "I have known nothing amongst you but Christ and him crucified,—at "the Lord's table" he bade them an affectionate, a solemn and a final farewell. As the Communion was then dispensed by another,* and his strength was reduced to feebleness, he could do but little more than say to the elders of his Church, as did the apostle at Mileus to the elders of the Church of Ephesus (Acts xx. 18, 19, 28), and to his people he could add but little beyond repeating the words of the same address (verses 20, 25, 32), "And when he had thus spoken he prayed with them all, and they all wept sore, sorrowing most of all that they should see his face no more."

* The late Rev R. Douglass, of St Peter's, Prince Edward Island.