

The expectation that you would sustain the protest and appeal made by me in my printed "circular," was entertained even by Mr. Macfie and his adherents. Before the second cause on whose existence you now look so complacently was commenced, Mr. M. assured those who desired to rally round him, that in the event of his leading them in a crusade of proscription, they must count on the withdrawal, at least for a time, of the Society's approval and support, and he could not go forward unless they were prepared to pledge him an adequate income. They pledged themselves accordingly. What a pleasing surprise your action is to him and his friends, we, to whom you have turned the cold shoulder, can judge, from the unexpectedness and bitterness of our own disappointment.

I told you when I transmitted to you a copy of the "circular" that two things were absolutely indispensable to the salvation of this mission: a place of worship, and your unequivocal support on the principle at issue. The former, by dint of great exertion, has been supplied; the latter *you have withheld*. Your action has virtually disfranchised my congregation. It has forced upon them self-support or dispersion as their only honorable alternative. In this view of the case they are perfectly unanimous, and on it they have acted. Manifestly there is no scope and no necessity for two Congregational causes here, and your preference has been indicated too plainly to admit of doubt. Thus you have struck a death-blow at a struggling and worthy enterprise with elements of right principle and moral stamina in it, while you have given fresh strength to a movement radically unsound, already prematurely old and decrepid, forced by the pressure of weakness and infirmity to send its minister to beg for aid and comfort *from the pro-slavery of California*, and sure to fall by its own dead weight, had you not so assiduously and unexpectedly hastened to prop it up. But the invigoration you have imparted, can be only temporary. You may galvanise a corpse, but cannot quicken it. When the short career of the "Congregational Church South" as an American here has well designated it, is ended,—when you awake to the startling fact that your mission to British Columbia is a disgraceful failure,—and when all the world beholds the abortion and knows its history, you will regret having thrown away so grand an opportunity of standing for truth and righteousness.

As for me, the sinews of hope and effort are cut. There is no spirit left in me. All ground of glorying on your behalf is gone. I have nothing more that I can say to those who "glory in appearance and not in heart." The public look upon me, not without good reason, as a repudiated and dishonored man. The Macfie party are in ecstasies. Prejudice is triumphant, rearing itself with provoking impudence on every hand, while "truth and liberty lie bleeding."

For me to be driven out of Victoria by those who sent me hither, is indeed a bitter trial. But it is one I cannot evade. I have plainly no choice but to leave *this* field; and to seek another in these colonies, were to dishonor the principle for which I have contended, and give place to a spirit of unchristian rivalry, which would not scruple to hunt me from the Straits of Fuca to the Rocky Mountains. Besides, how can I honorably or contentedly remain in the service of a Committee, of whose principles I am not the true exponent, and on whose moral support and sympathy I cannot count in the hour of need? All my convictions and feelings, all my antecedents of sympathy and effort for the oppressed, forbid my acting as the representative of those who are capable of remaining dumb where the interests of freedom and humanity are at stake, or who speak only to shield injustice and strengthen prejudice.

I do therefore herewith tender you my resignation, to take effect on my re-establishment in a field of labor on the other side of this continent, and the payment by you of the expenses incurred in my removal.

I have no idea this matter will rest in its present posture. The press will ventilate it. Subscribers to the Society, the Congregational churches and Unions of England and Canada, will take it up. From your unjust verdict I appeal to your constituents, to British Congregationalism, and to the Christianity of the age. Nothing is settled until it is put on a basis of righteousness. Your action will yet be reconsidered and reversed. My course, will sooner or later, be vindicated. I shall rejoice if you are brought to see and correct the error into which you have fallen, and the wrong you have helped to inflict. Should you however,