

missionary labours were present on the occasion. The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Cassie, of Port Hope; King, of Columbus; Scott, of Perrytown; Baird, of Claremont; Lowry, of Whitby (Free Church); and Kennedy, of Dunbarton. William Mitchell, Esq., an Elder from the congregation of Newton, made a few remarks, on rising to present to the Chairman a token of gratitude to Mr. Thornton, from himself and others in Clarke, for his labours in that quarter in days of yore. Mr. Mitchell's remarks, though tremblingly uttered, were excellent—creditable alike to his head and his heart. Among other things, he stated that, in early times, the good folks in Clarke, though they had resolved to build a church in which to worship, were somewhat tardy, from some cause or other, in setting about the work. Their pious purpose long hung fire. In the meantime Mr. Thornton paid them one of his periodical preaching visits, and on that occasion selected as his text the words of the Lord, by Haggai, chap. 1, "*This people say, the time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built. . . . Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? . . . Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.*" Such was the effect of the text, and the sermon therefrom, that the people forthwith set about cutting down and getting out the wood for the Lord's house, and had it erected in no long time.

Space will not admit of remarks on the various speeches delivered by Mr. Thornton's brethren on the occasion. Some of them were short, and seemingly unpremeditated, but all were full of heart. The two addresses on specific subjects, by the deputies from the Presbytery of Durham, viz., Messrs. King and Scott, were of a very high order,—profound in thought, and accurate and eloquent in language.

All in all, the occasion was one of peculiarly deep interest to pastor and people,—honourable, and it is hoped profitable to both. It could not fail to conjure up much from the grave of past years; and reflections on God's goodness and gracious dealings would prompt a fuller flow of gratitude, and must needs have induced a firmer trust for the future in Him who is Zion's King and their common Saviour.

"*Twenty-five years a Watchman,*" was the striking motto on one of the huge pyramid-like cakes that adorned the platform table. Happy the man honoured to bear arms under the Captain of Salvation for such a lengthened period, and who cannot be charged with ever sleeping at his post, or of failing to give warning of danger, or of giving the trumpet an uncertain sound when danger threatened; and happy the people who have enjoyed for twenty-five years such watch and ward. May they be long spared, and be more abundantly blessed than in the past. It is no flattery,—it is but uttering the opinion of those who have had better opportunities of judging than the writer,—to say that Mr. Thornton deserves well at the hands of the people to whom he has so long ministered, of the community of which he has been such a useful member, and of the Church at large, whose extension and interests his efforts have so much tended to promote. But "the recompense of reward" is not to be obtained either now or here,—it is future, and in heaven. May Christ's ministers and all Christ's people "be faithful unto death," and each of them shall assuredly "receive a crown of life."

On the 19th Feb., Mr. Thornton was waited upon by the managing committee, who placed in his hands the following address, with the proceeds of the soiree (including contributions to its funds), being something over \$200.

To the Rev R. H. Thornton,

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with the Resolution and desire of the Congregation we present you with the proceeds of the Soiree held on the 16th instant to celebrate the close of the 25th year of your ministry amongst us.

We congratulate you on the success which has hitherto attended your Missionary and Ministerial labours, and trust that the Divine Blessing will accompany them to the end.

To Mrs. Thornton, your respected and beloved partner in life, who has so ably assisted you as a Pastor's wife, we tender our thanks, and pray that she may recover from her illness, and be long spared for your aid and comfort. At another time