

(Loud cheers from the right and other parts of the house.) This was peculiarly necessary in our case from the difference of opinion that prevailed, and the fact that a great number of us coming out of Scotland felt that we could not accept aid from a State that had virtually rejected evangelical principles. We published our views on that subject twenty years ago, and while we held fast to the principle I have alluded to, we have, at the same time, declared that for us to accept of endowments in circumstances in which we were placed might have the effect of rendering our testimony somewhat ambiguous—(laughter)—looking like a change of sentiment from the views of the Free Church, and necessarily interposing an obstacle in the way of a vital and substantial union with other denominations. On these grounds we acted on the principle of forbearance in regard to the specific application of the principle, while we hold that principle in a firm and unambiguous manner. No doubt a number of years elapsed before that. Had there been any disposition to surrender that great principle, the union would have been consummated sooner. But we thank God for what has been done to present a more powerful front to the common enemy, and I believe, by a late computation made, the Presbyterians of all denominations, including those, of course, belonging to the Established church, form the first in point of number of all the Protestant denominations in the whole Dominion of Canada, and even in Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland, where they have not seen meet to fall into the Confederate track. We wished to live in love; yet we could not but feel that there were hindrances to the progress of religion and Presbyterianism. We find also that Presbyterianism is peculiarly adapted to the genius of the people, and recommends itself even to those who do not come under the designation of Presbyterians. But there is every reason to think, if our colleges are well supplied, and able ministers are sent forth, from time to time, standing firm and fast by the standards of the church—there is no question at all that, by the blessing of God, we may expect not only peace and harmony, and progress among ourselves, but the extension of the Gospel in districts beyond those immediately allotted to us. (Much applause.) When we think of the Indian mission, which is now going on most successfully—when we think of the French mission, in connection with which there are six stations—we are encouraged to hope that our Colonial churches will be one of God's instruments of great and growing usefulness in building up the walls of Zion, which are salvation, and setting up its gates, which are praise. I rejoice that it is again permitted me, after having passed my fourscore years, to visit the land of my fathers, and to rejoice with you in the bright prospect set before us."

The following, extracted, in substance, from the same source, gives but an inadequate idea of his last address