

and continued for a considerable time, he seemed almost at once to become an old man. The bright, cheerful eye remained, for it was fed from a fountain from which earthly trouble cannot cut off the supply, and the kindly expression of his countenance which was always so marked as to arrest the attention of all who saw him, increased with the mellowing influence upon his heart of that communion with the Unseen and the Eternal on which he was now all the more thrown back for support and comfort; but the elasticity of former years was gone. Only on occasions would indications of his former buoyancy manifest itself. He had indeed the deep sympathies of his brethren in the Presbytery, and of the great body of the congregations; but when will congregations thoroughly awake to the fact that sympathy without the discharge of those duties which the pastoral relation necessarily imposes, especially in churches such as ours in which the minister's peace and comfort are placed in so large a measure in their hands, utterly fail in imparting that support which the hour of trial and the trials of ministerial life generally call for. He still, however, continued to discharge his ministerial duties as in previous years, visiting and catechizing his whole congregation in alternate years, attending prayer-meetings and Bible classes, and as far as possible attending church courts. This continuance in the discharge of his duties as in the past in his trying circumstances and failing health, and especially in view of the growing failure of his people to fulfil their obligations to him, was a matter of oft-expressed astonishment on the part of his brethren in the Presbytery. In public and private they often acknowledged: We did not expect it of him, and we have come, or gone, time after time to his congregation saying among ourselves, there must be some growing disregard of duty of visiting or catechizing, of maintaining prayer-meetings or Sabbath schools; but no, there is not one of our congregation, so far as circumstances permit where all these matters are more faithfully attended to. But, for the secret of such abounding in the work of the Lord, we have not far to go. He expressed it himself in his oft-repeated remark in private: "If it was not for the Master's sake whom I serve I think I would do no more." His was the service of the unseen; and as he was more and more driven from the comparatively unfruitful regard and sympathy of those among whom he labored, to communion with the Master whom he loved and trusted, the greatness of the claims of that service came more and more forcibly home to him. He felt therefore he could not relax so long as he professed to occupy the ground. The work was, however, be-

yond his strength, and with the accidents to which his increasing infirmities rendered him more liable, only hastened the end.

About the beginning of 1862 he came before the Presbytery acknowledging his inability to discharge as heretofore the pastoral work of the congregation. He must either resign altogether, or some other arrangement be made relieving him from part of the work. The Presbytery had all along been urging the congregation to a more Christian discharge of its obligations; and while waiting its action this year relieved him from the obligation of visiting the families generally. During summer or autumn he was laid up for several weeks by an attack of sciatica, the Presbytery kindly supplying his pulpit. In 1863 he was still farther relieved from public duty, and his salary fixed at £50. The congregation were now to apply to Presbytery for supplemental service from preachers with the view to securing an assistant. But in the spring of 1864, in accordance with the advice of a deputation from Presbytery, sent to examine into the state of affairs, he sent in his resignation accompanied by a statement of arrears for the last few years, which was accepted after the meeting of Synod, to take effect the first of September, the 40th anniversary of his ordination. It is due to the congregation to state that they agreed to grant a retiring allowance, and by the efforts of Presbytery, instead of an annual contribution, £100 were in the course of the year secured for this object. He was now relieved from the formal charge of the congregation, and with beneficial results to his health; but his heart was still in the work, and although he did not after this date preach very often, either at home or abroad, he continued to attend prayer-meetings and visit the sick as occasion required. To many, particularly the aged, he was still "the minister," and when sent for by them often went at great inconvenience and risk. "The week of Prayer" was something in which from the first he took a special interest; and notwithstanding the inclement season of the year at which it occurs he continued to attend its meetings in the different sections of the congregation.

From the date of the attack of sciatica in 1862 he had scarcely a day of freedom from Rheumatic pains. Head and body were assailed by this torturing disease.

At the usual family gathering at the beginning of the present year, it was observed that he was thinner in flesh than ever before; and it was painfully evident that causes were at work which, unless soon checked, would result in his speedy removal from us. Through the winter he often spoke of experiencing an unusual sensation about his heart, and acute pain