

us value it as His gift, and use it freely for meeting in His name. He has put it into the hearts of His people to build it for His glory; let His gift not be thrown away. It is one of the tokens of His care for us. As part of His Church (that body which is gathered out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation) let us look upon this building as a sign of His care for us, and use it always for His glory and service. Let us not come here as the heathen do to their temples, thinking that God is nearer to us in one place than another, and then go away again, as if His light and abundant love did not follow us everywhere. On the contrary, let all who meet to worship God here try to remember that they come to be fed at God's table, and to count how many there are on God's side, and then go out again, determined, in the strength got here, to keep together as of the Church outside of these walls, helping one another by acknowledging the Lord in all their ways. May there be such communion with our heavenly Father within these walls, that, when you leave them, Sunday by Sunday, you may take with you a sense of His living presence, and then the idols of the dreary world outside will be hateful to you. You know what a clear sight of God's holiness and glory and mercy Joshua got, when on the mount with Moses, so that he was always on God's side amid the worst rebellion and faithlessness of the crowds of Israel afterwards. Do you try, by diligently coming here, to get a like knowledge of Christ our Lord as the head of the Church, so that in return you may be, both among your neighbours and in your families, steadfast, immovable, all ways abounding in the work of the Lord.

I beg, too, that when you meet here to praise our heavenly Father, you will sometimes remember those in Scotland who gave us help to build this Church. Pray sometimes for their prosperity, that God's blessing may rest upon them, and that they may have more and more faith given them to trust God, and give liberally for His cause. They never saw any of you, and probably never will do so until that day when all shall meet face to face under the smile of our Redeemer, at the right hand of the great white throne. But you can help to make their life on earth more worthy, and their reward in Christ's presence more full of joy, by asking Him to grant them now a larger measure of His Holy Spirit. It is a visible proof of the way in which the Church of the living God is knit together in one faith, to see men and women, with half the world between them, thus helping one another because they are each redeemed by the same precious blood, and all following the same Lord and Master; on the one side giving, to use an apostle's words, of their substance, and, on the other, their affectionate prayers.

Yet a few words on the subject of your pastor, and I shall have done. It is not my part to tell you your duty to him. You know by experience the value of one set over you in the Lord, who, having himself prayerfully studied God's word, can divide it rightly and wisely to you. You do not need to be told to esteem him in love for his work's sake, for he has already commended himself to you in this way. *I will only humbly remind you that, if he is to continue to teach sound doctrine, and maintain good works, and take the oversight of you faithfully, and without fear of man, he must be helped by the prayers of his people.* "Brethren, pray for us," was a request of St. Paul to one of the churches under his oversight. *If he who had seen Jesus face to face, and had been caught up to heaven itself and taught there, desired this help in his work, be sure that we too need to draw down blessing on ourselves and those worshipping with us by asking the Great Head of the Church to grant free course to His word in the*

prayers and teaching and life of His servants ministering to us. Remember that a clergyman's work is often hard work. It is not like much of ours, which, when it is done, is done, and costs us no more thought. His is directly for eternity. He is sowing seed that will spring up, it may be good grain, or it may be but fit for the burning. The remembrance of this goes with him wherever he is, and were it not for the gracious presence of the Lord Jesus, who gives strength for His service in proportion to the demand for it, he would often work hopelessly. I have once and again seen godly men, who had charge of souls, with sad faces and sore hearts on account of the carelessness of some of those over whom the great Pastor had given them spiritual charge. The help for this is prayer, and therefore I again humbly remind you that part of this duty of asking for grace for your minister must be taken by yourselves. *Ask grace for him, and it will come back to you in double measure.*—Home Record.

—o—

Drunkeness, Moderation and Teetotalism.

I had a long and earnest talk with R—, but oh! how unsatisfactory! I said little. His fine face was flushed. He had exceeded on the previous night, and the thirst for more possessed him.

"I mean to be a moderate drinker for the future."

"You cannot be, dear friend; believe me you cannot be."

"Yes, ma'am, but I can, if I make up my mind. I've got a strong resolution; and I say that I'll attend Church just the same as ever. But I can't work without drink."

"You are not yourself to-day. I do not want you to return to my ranks by any persuasion of mine. Try and be a moderate drinker, if you will."

"I mean to try, ma'am."

"Do so: but take my word for it, you will break down over and over again, and then you will be ashamed to come to Church. O, R—, I am so unhappy! You have grievously disheartened me. You will not fall alone. Remember how I have spoken to you of the influence we all possess. G. H— will be the next to fall, for he looked up so to you; and perhaps a dozen more firm ones will now go back to sin."

All this while he was silent.

"Better a thousand times, dear friend, suffer inconvenience now, and have good hopes of overcoming through Christ, and of joining us in glory, than to go back to be a drunkard now for the sake of a short-lived gratification, and have to suffer eternal remorse and shame hereafter."

He groaned.

"You know that total abstinence cannot injure your health; it may inconvenience you, and it will do so during the first hot days; but in the end you will feel the heat less, and be less thirsty."

I saw he was relenting. I was resolved not to push matters further, but appealed to