

my resignation is, and shall be, for the benefit of the congregation, I dare not shrink from it.

I came to Perth, with the one supreme desire, to advance the interests of my people and of the cause of Christ. I thank God this has been my abiding supreme desire during all the long years of my ministry here. I feel myself to be identified with—a member, indeed—of almost every family, past, and present, connected with the congregation. I have joyed with them in their joys, I have wept with them in their sorrows. In very many instances the third, and in a few the fourth generations are growing up around me.

I preached my first sermon, in this pulpit, after having been licensed to preach the unsearchable riches of God's grace to my sinful and perishing fellowmen. My earliest, my holiest, my best—indeed, all my ministerial aspirations and labors and wrestlings, in the study, the pulpit and pastoral field have been here; and my ministerial sorrows also; my failures (alas! that they should have been so many and great), as well as my successes—whatever successes I may have had—have been here also.

I can scarcely, in the future, think or feel or remember, without thinking and feeling and remembering of St. Andrew's Church and congregation. Memory must ever remind me of persons, of scenes and events connected with my ministry and my residence here.

Of those who were members of the church, at the date of my ordination the names of only nineteen now remain on the communion roll. Of these only four have for some time been able to be present with us, with any regularity, on the Lord's Day in his sanctuary, or at his table. I see only three of them present to-day.

I have sprinkled the symbolically cleansing water of baptism upon the faces of seven hundred and twenty-two (722) infants, introduced them to the privileges of the visible church, and committed them to their parents and to the church, as a sacred charge from God, in order that they might instruct them and bring them up, if spared, to be a holy seed to serve God, and take their places as God's children and servants in the Church and in the world in due time.

I have baptized a number of adults also.

I have, after careful examination, admitted, with my several sessions, to the table of the Lord, four hundred and thirty-three (433) persons, most of them young persons—182 being on certificate.

I have broken the sacramental bread for my people, and dispensed to them the sacramental cup, at the Lord's table at 141 communions.

I have, by the goodness of God to me, as regards health, been able to preside at every Communion that has taken place in the congregation since my ordination, with the exception of one, when I was absent in Manitoba, sent by the Synod, as a deputation on the business of the church; and there have been very few Sabbaths indeed during my long ministry on which I have not been able to preach from the pulpit of this church, or the pulpit of some of the other congregations of our church.

Unnumbered sick-beds and death-beds, in almost every house of my con-