

Divine grace, effected, (which, perhaps, is not to be looked for as probable,) we should say that scarcely any kind of employment could be supposed more likely to aggravate guilt, and utterly extinguish conscience, than testifying to others unspeakably precious truth which the individual does not himself believe, and urging on them the acceptance of a salvation which he holds to be an illusion and a phantom—all, too, probably from some mercenary and sordid motive. But, granting that to such a man the ministerial office is calculated to be every way detrimental, we come to just an opposite conclusion, supposing the individual to be what charity requires us to assume that every man is, who enters on the office—a sincere believer of what he teaches. To such a man, we can conceive of no profession as affording the same facilities and advantages for elevating and expanding his views on the loftiest and sublimest of all subjects—for invigorating his faculties, by exercising them on themes which we know that the angels eagerly study—and for purifying and sanctifying his affections, by keeping constantly present to his mind those glorious truths, through believing meditation on which, men are, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, changed from glory to glory, into the image of God. True, indeed, the office of the ministry has its trials—often occasioning the intensest bitterness of spirit. But may not these prove salutary discipline? May not one who has experienced them most largely, have reason to say, with reference to them—It is good to be afflicted? May they not be found among the “all things” which work together for good to them that love God? May not one who is enduring them, too, find, that as his troubles abound, his consolations also abound?

As on divers accounts, however, it is inexpedient that this address should be protracted, these general considerations must be brought somewhat abruptly to a close; and I must, as briefly as possible, indicate the course of study to be pursued during the session.

[The details are here omitted.]

It only remains that, in a sentence or two, I remind the young friends who are to be my associates in study, during these few weeks—as I desire to be reminded myself—of the vast importance of applying to our labours, not only with diligence, assiduity, and perseverance, but also in the spirit of teachable, devout, disciples, sitting at the feet of Jesus, calling Him, and Him alone, our Master. May we be enabled to divest ourselves of all prejudice and pre-conception. Let us spurn from us all such philosophy and vain deceit as exalteth itself against the knowledge of God. Let our honest, earnest desire be, to know the mind of the Spirit, as revealed in the word, and let us, with all reverence, bow to its dictates, and implicitly receive whatever is sanctioned by “Thus saith the Lord.” In order to this, let us, with all faith and fervour, implore the teaching of the good and holy Spirit—the spirit of wisdom and of good understanding, in the fear of the Lord. May he enlighten the eyes of our understanding, and fill us with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; so that, being ourselves built up in Christ, and established in the faith, and sanctified and comforted through the truth, we may prove good ministers of Jesus Christ, and humble instruments, in his hand, for maintaining and extending his kingdom of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. May the like blessings be plentifully vouchsafed, to all the true servants of God in the gospel of his Son, by whatever name they are called; and may God’s way be known upon the earth, and His saving health among all nations. And let the people praise Him—let all the people praise Him.

ADDENDA TO

“REMARKS ON THE DELIVERANCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,
RELATIVE TO UNION WITH THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.”

[The following has been sent us by the friend who contributed the article on the above subject in our last No. [pp. 271-275]; and we readily insert it, as it seems reasonable that our readers should know the views entertained by both parties on the matters chiefly in dispute. His suggestions, also,