

are ascending to the throne of grace in your behalf; and if you act your part faithfully and well, your name and your labours will form an important part of the history of our church, and shall be transmitted to, and shall be read with interest by, coming generations. This high honour, the path you have chosen has secured for you. The worldly sacrifice you have made, and the effort it required to break the many strong and tender ties that bound your affections to friends and home, had the honour of Christ as the motive which prompted and enabled you to prevail; and as certainly as it was your desire to honour Him, will He honour and reward you abundantly. For the last few months you have been among our people, and we are thankful to know that in every congregation the interest formerly felt in the mission, and in you, who offered to enter upon it, has been greatly increased by your presence, and by the addresses you were enabled to deliver. In a few weeks more, and we trust your labours in meeting the congregations will be brought to a close, and then, without further delay, you will be prepared to leave your native shore for the far distant Islands of the South Seas. As a court, then, this is the last time we shall probably meet, and the opportunity must be embraced of assuring you, dear Brother, that you will carry with you our most sincere wishes that the God of missions may speed and prosper your way. It is, and it will be, our earnest prayer, that your Divine Master, and ours, may bless you continually with the sense and the assurance of His own living and gracious presence. When He gave the command, in obedience to which you are to embark for the distant Islands, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," He added the promise, "and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." No language could be plainer than the words of this promise, and we cannot err when we take it to mean all that it says. If so,—and that we can fully trust Him who gave this assurance, what position can be safer than his who leans upon and has it for his defence?—it is not, we are assured, without counting the cost, without much anxious thought, and much earnest prayer, you have formed the resolution to which you are now giving effect. The difficulties in the way you have deliberately weighed. The dangers to be encountered are not unknown. I need not speak of these, nor of the many privations and hardships you may have to endure. These things you must expect to meet, and you will find them difficult to bear, and well fitted to discourage. The strongest zeal and the firmest resolutions are sure to fail in the face of continued peril and privation, unless the servant hear the sound of his Master's feet going before him. If spared to reach the field selected as the scene of your future labours, your heart will be sorely tried on beholding the fearful array of wretchedness and vice and crime which will meet your eye. Looking at this degraded, and, to the eye of man, this hopeless mass, which has been festering in the loathsome corruption of many ages, human wisdom will declare that the attempt to restore to the state and dignity of rational and immortal beings must be in vain. Frequently has the language been heard from the lips of men who could boast of much learning and intelligence, "What folly to preach the gospel to degraded savages like them! If there is any hope, it is by first bringing them under the influence of civilization, and then, perhaps, you may succeed in getting them to receive and appreciate the truths of the gospel." Thus will the wisdom of man judge and speak; and if, in coming in contact with the terrible scenes of heathenism, you will not resolutely resist their whisperings, your courage will assuredly fail, and your arm will become paralyzed and powerless. If it were by human might and power you entered on this work, no vision could be more extravagant than the hopes of success. But you need not be told that it is not thus equipped, nor trusting for success to such means as these, Christ sends you to meet and to triumph over the difficulties in your way: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." You are not going as a poor solitary individual, with such