

sonal services of any of my brethren in the ministry, many of whom are infinitely better qualified by endowments of nature and of grace, to encounter the toils and the hazards of our great missionary enterprise,—an enterprise where all former experience often fails, and an entirely new experience must be wrought out, challenging a concentration of sagacity and tact, and holy perseverance, and prayerful wrestling with God, to which our “Masters in Israel” alone can, without presumption, lay claim. Should my health finally fail, or should any such competent labourers present themselves,—then, indeed,—but not till then, would I deem it my duty to abandon the position I now occupy, and, resigning it into abler hands, gladly retire into the peaceful seclusion of some humble station in the Redeemer’s vineyard at home.

6. Having thus calmly and deliberately made up my own mind as to the path of duty, I may not, and must not swerve. All considerations of personal or family advantages must vanish. Being a husband and a parent, I trust I know something of the strength and peculiarity of domestic ties; I trust I am not blind to the claims which a beloved partner and children have on my protection and support. But the ties of grace—the claim of a bleeding Saviour—are higher, holier, stronger still. And it is my rare and singular felicity, to feel assured that every sentiment which I have now uttered finds a ready echo in the breast of that bosom friend, who has heretofore rejoiced with me in my joy, and sympathised with me in my sorrows. And painful though the trial must prove to flesh and blood, we are both prepared, when the hour of separation comes, to part with our dear little ones—perhaps for ever—recommending them, in the exercise of faith, to the care and keeping of Him who is pre-eminently the friend of the friendless, and the father of the fatherless.

And now, my dear Sir, what shall I say, in conclusion, relative to the expression of favourable regard which your letter so emphatically conveys? To

say that it vastly exceeds any thing to which I feel myself entitled is to say little. I could not speak of it, if I would, in terms at all adequate. The theme I must therefore leave to the musings of “expressive silence.”

From the vivid interest taken by you, and your friends and townsmen, in that mission to whose interests my life has been devoted, Aberdeen has long ere now been endeared to me; but it has become doubly so now. It is imprinted on the table of a grateful heart, as if engraven with a pen of iron on the rock for ever. And should God spare me to revisit once more the distant shores of India, even there will it not cease to rise up before me in fondly cherished remembrance.

That God, in his infinite mercy, may pour upon yourself and colleagues, and all the members of the South Church congregation the richest effusions of his grace,—and raise up unto you another pastor, according to your hearts’ desire—is the earnest prayer of your affectionate friend in the Lord.

May our prayers for him, and for the success of that enterprise in which he has embarked, never cease. Canada has much to do for herself, but we shall not succeed the worse, because of our sympathy and prayers for one hundred and fifty millions of immortal beings, whom the providence of God, we humbly trust for gracious purposes, has brought under the sway of our beloved country. We cannot but regard it as a most auspicious token of reviving Religion in our Parent Church, that she has begun to put forth her energies in Foreign Missionary labours. It is long since Scotland began to supply India with her most distinguished Military Officers, Judges, and Civilians. A higher honour yet remains to supply India with her most distinguished Missionaries. There cannot be room here for vain boasting, or unhallowed competition; since the perfect will be the humblest, and the most successful will owe all his success