

secret of which philosophers laboured at one time so earnestly to discover, and which was supposed capable of changing the basest metals into gold,—the Gospel has made a Manasseh, a Zaccheus, a jailor like the Philippian, an Augustine, or a Bunyan, “a new creature;” if it has changed a degraded heart into a noble one, an earthly mind into a heavenly one; if it has turned selfishness into generosity, lust into purity, cruelty into kindness, hatred into love, passion into meekness, pride into humility, all, in fact, that is unamiable in human character into all that is good and lovely; if it has (I do not say) perfected such a transformation; but if it has introduced into one’s nature the essential elements of the change: then, whatever may be thought of it by others, it must, in the judgment of the person renewed, be a plan of celestial wisdom.

The subject, my friends, which I have thus, at considerable length illustrated, I have chosen on this, the closing occasion of my ministry among you,* because it has enabled me, both to bring forward a number of the truths to which I have laboured to give prominence in the course of my public services as your pastor, and to indicate what I conceive to be the kind of evidence on which these truths are really felt, by Christians generally, to be worthy of acceptance and belief,—I mean, their internal and experimental evidences. There are many special things which I might have said on an occasion like this; and I may be permitted yet to allude (though I can do no more than allude) to the happiness with which I have lived among you,—to the kindness I have met with,—to the regret which I have experienced in being called to leave you,—to the interest that I feel in the congregation as a whole, and in its several members,—to my hope that the great King and Head of

* This was the Author’s farewell sermon to his congregation at Hamilton.