



LAST SERMON IN KIRK

BY DR. MACKIE AS MINISTER OF ST. ANDREW'S.

"Peace I leave with you," His Closing Text—Courageous Words in Explanation of His Retiring From the Ministry.

Before a very large congregation Rev. John Mackie, D.D., preached his farewell sermon to the people of St. Andrew's church on Sunday evening. After thirty-five years of active work Dr. Mackie is retiring from the ministry and going home to Scotland whence he came twenty-six years ago. His closing discourse to his people in the "Scotch kirk," whose history goes back 108 years, was very touching.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John xiv. 27) was his text. Most impressive were his quiet remarks upon Christ's words of comfort to His disciples, and solemn were his words of farewell to the congregation. Courageous was his reference to his stepping out, wholly at his own desire, from the pastorate. "Wise is the man," he said, "who sees for himself when his hour has come, when both for his own peace of mind and comfort of heart, and the highest interests of the people it is right in the sight of God to pass out and allow another to pass in."

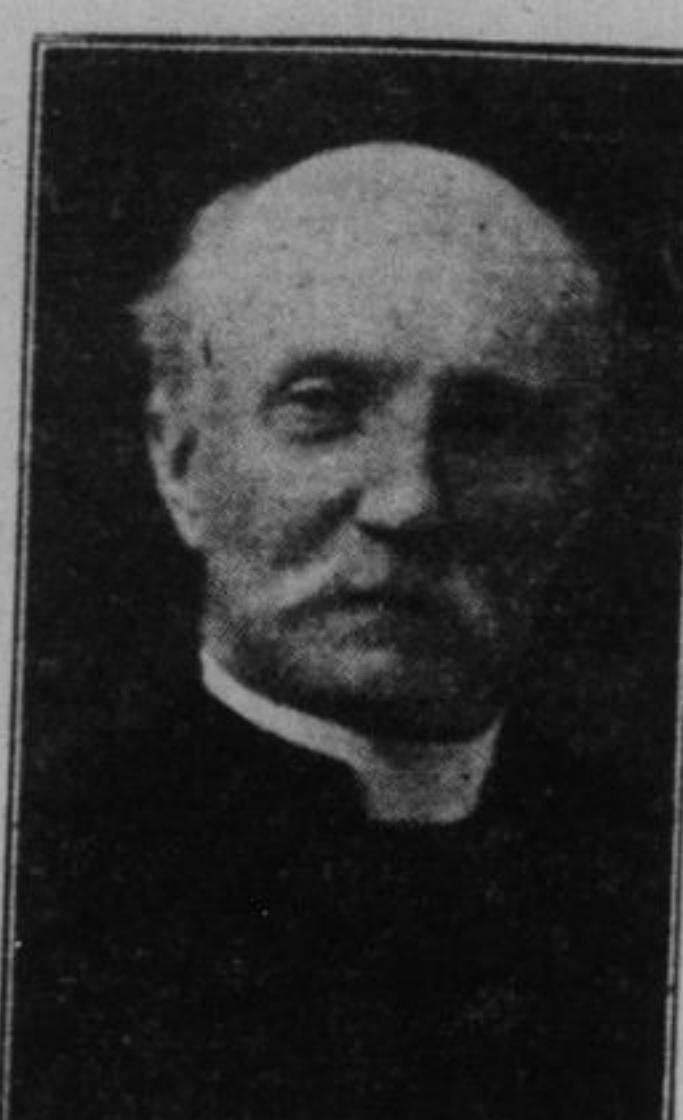
The service of praise was appropriate. Psalm, lxxiii: "Lord, Thou my God I'll Early Seek," opened, and "O God of Bethel," closed the service. "In Heavenly Love Abiding" and "Peace, Perfect Peace" were the hymns. The anthems were "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" and "My Peace I Leave With You."

At the conclusion of his sermon Dr. Mackie spoke as follows:

"And now, brethren, with such a message, I close my ministry among you. Few of you come back in the evening so I say my last say now, and it is not without sadness, deep and true, that as your minister I shall henceforth be silent. Six and twenty years have gone since the presbytery reluctantly induced me into the charge and laid upon me the most solemn duties that can engage the life of man, and upon you serious obligations relative to myself and my work. Not all, not many of those then present, are here to-day. Time like a mighty rolling flood has carried the multitude to the other shore. A new generation has come, ready for new things, with only the hearsay of the past and expectant gaze into the future and into that future it is never

wise for a leader to venture far with the views and methods of the past.

"A long pastorate, generally, speaks well both for the minister and the congregation. There is beauty about it that commends it to sentiment and recommends it to every charge. A pastorate, however, may be too long, and it always is so when the mere length of ministry and respect are the ties that still hold pastor and people together. Many a long and honored pastorate, pitifully lengthened out, has been fraught with direst and most distressing consequences. Wise is the man, therefore, who sees for himself when his hour has come, when both for his own peace of mind and comfort of heart, and the highest interests of the people it is right in the sight of God to pass out and allow another to pass in. There are too many old men who think they are young, and whose evening

REV. JOHN MACKIE, D.D.
Who preached his farewell sermon in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday.

work is in sad contrast with their morning.

"I wish to avoid this. For no other reason, therefore, do I withdraw from the oversight of this congregation. I want St. Andrew's a flourishing congregation and a leading one in the dominion, not to dwindle and die; not to sink into listlessness, wearied of the voice that cries, but to grow and expand, and under an inspiration that fills the pew with reverent worshippers, and crowds with eager workers every department of congregational activity. I pray that for future you and to secure it I step aside, God alone knowing how I feel in doing so."

"My dear people let me say that the one aim of my life as your minister was to work well my own vineyard, to give myself mainly to St. Andrew's and to other things only as they commanded themselves to me, and I had time and strength for them. I have given my best, such as it was, to St. Andrew's, and I would pursue the same course again, were I at the beginning and not at the end of my ministry. The result, I believe, of this close attention to my own particular work, this staying at home, is to me a very rich and precious reward, not only your esteem for me as your minister, the ordained servant of Jesus Christ, but your very warm affection for me as your true and trusty friend. This I would not exchange for any amount of worldly popularity, or ecclesiastical preferment. So we part, heart answering heart, and not to part or change."

"It is neither for you nor me to take the measure of my success. That belongs to God only, he knows all about it. I leave it to His omniscience and infinite pity. He will say, I am sure whatever else He will not say—whether I have been successful or not—that I have been faithful, and for even that He has 'the joy of the Lord.'

"And now, brethren, dearly beloved, only remains for me to say farewell. It is with sorrow I say it to you all, and before the mercy seal I hope to have the sweet privilege of constantly bearing you up, but it is with much sorrow of heart I say it to those of you who have been closely associated with me as fellow-labourers, and some of you—not many now—have stood in that relation to me during all my ministry. Your unshaken confidence, unwavering friendship, and unwearied, ungrudging assistance, have given me comfort, courage and perseverance, and from a full heart I say God bless you and yours, and richly reward you for all you have been for your minister and His servant."

"And now, brethren, I command you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. His peace by with you."

"At the evening service Rev. Dr. Torrance officiated, and in the course of his sermon made the following reference to the departure of Rev. Dr. Mackie:

"There is a peculiar solemnity about our service to-night and it has to do with the dissolution of the pastoral tie which has existed for twenty-six years. The relation between you and your pastor has been one of the closest kind. The greater part of his life's work has been done among you. He has given to you his very best. You are the ones for whose souls he has watched. You are the flock which, as shepherd, he has fed. You are the household to whom as steward he has ministered. He has been with you in your joys and sorrows. He has baptized your children. He has officiated at the marriages of your sons and of your daughters. He has knelled by the bedside of your dying and accompanied the remains of your loved ones to the grave. When such has been his relation to you for twenty-six years it is not easy to realize what is involved in the dissolution of the

"Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are not alone intended for the sick, but well known as well for the person who craves hearty foods and wants to eat heartily and run no risk of bad effects, they act like a charm and make eating and digestion a delight and pleasure. They keep the stomach active and energetic and able and willing to do extra work without special labor or effort. Don't forget this. Well people are often neglected, but the Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets have them in mind."

"A free trial package will be sent to anyone who wants to know just what they are, how they look and taste, before beginning treatment with them. After this go to the drug store for them; everywhere, here or at home, they are 30 cents a box and by getting them at home you will save time and postage. Your doctor will prescribe them; they say there are if I say a few words of kindly approach. Your doctor will prescribe them, but with the association of Dr. Mackie. His intellectual attainments are of a high order—a naturally strong mind being enriched by culture. But upon these I do not intend to dwell, it seems to me more fitting to em-

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