

Letters: Rev. Dr. Macdonald, North Leith (3)

by Andrew Bonar

Andrew Bonar reflects on the significance of Robert M'Cheyne's Letters and offers words of encouragement and hospitality to Dr. Macdonald as he approaches a milestone birthday.

Scripture: Joshua 1:7

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Fellowship in Ministry"

Description

Andrew Bonar reflects on the value of spiritual writings, particularly praising 'From Day to Day' for its clarity and ability to enlighten readers. He expresses gratitude for the blessings that come from such meditations and encourages his fellow minister, Dr. Macdonald, to remain strong and courageous in his faith. Bonar reminisces about their long-standing friendship and ministry, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and the richness that comes with age and experience in faith. He also extends a warm invitation for Dr. Macdonald to visit, highlighting the fellowship and support among believers.

Transcript

GLASGOW, 9th December 1878.

MY DEAR ROBERT,

--From Day to Day is a book of most pleasant and profitable reading. It is 365 meditations--as many as Samuel Rutherford's Letters--as many as Enoch's years of earthly pilgrimage and walking with God. There is a clearness and pointedness in your style of writing that at once attracts the reader, and, dipping his rod in the honey, he finds his eyes enlightened.

Had I attempted such a book my aim would have been to forge a chain of 365 links--every day a doctrine that naturally followed the one before! But I fear my idea is Utopian.

Many thanks--and may you get thanks of the best kind in the prayers of those who are receivers of blessing by your pages.--Your brother in the faith and patience of the Lord Jesus,

ANDREW A. BONAR.

GLASGOW, 16th May 1882.

MODERATOR,

--I understand that to-morrow is your birthday. Well, in turning over some papers, I lighted on a few scraps of Robert M'Cheyne's, and one is entitled a 'Birthday Ode' to his father. I venture, my dear Moderator-Elect, to apply to you the two lines with which the fragment concludes :--

'We pray that, as oft as thy birthday appears,

Thy purified joys may increase with thy years.'

I hope to see and hear you on Thursday, if the Lord will. (The opening of the Free Church Assembly, of which Dr. Macdonald was that year to be Moderator.) Take this text, brother, 'Only be strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law. Turn not from it to the right hand nor to the left, for then thou shalt prosper and have good success.' --

Your fellow-soldier,

ANDREW A. BONAR.

GLASGOW, 18th Jany. 1886.

MY DEAR 'ROBERT MACDONALD,'

--Only think how old you and I must be! (1) You were ordained in Blairgowrie before I was a minister at Collace, and I was there eighteen years, and have been in this city twenty-nine years. (2) This being so, it must be forty-seven years at least since you and I began to interchange ministerial services! How old we are now! Well, remember the Eastern saying, "The palm-tree bears the finest dates when it is a hundred years old," and as you are on the way to that goal (though not quite in sight of it yet), we here in Glasgow, who are expecting you in the end of the week, are, of course, warranted to look for the 'finest dates' that were ever shaken from the Blairgowrie-and-North Leith Palm-tree. . .

Paul wrote to Philemon (verse 22nd): 'Prepare me a lodging.' Let me anticipate any such request by saying your prophet's chamber shall be ready for you (with a good fire in this cold, cold weather) whenever you come on Saturday. . . . --Ever yours, dear brother,

ANDREW A. BONAR.

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