



Presentation to Mr. James Goulden – Schoolmaster for 50 years

Presentation

An interesting ceremony took place in this parish on Friday evening last. A large number of the inhabitants met together at the schoolroom, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Mr. James Goulden, who has just resigned the office of schoolmaster, after fifty years' service. The testimonial took the shape of an annuity of £13 per annum, the vouchers for which, together with a scroll containing the names of those who had contributed towards it, were publicly handed over to Mr. Goulden. The rector (Rev. T. B. Buchanan), who acted as spokesman on the occasion, commented on the important benefits Mr. Goulden had conferred upon the parish, not only in the effective manner in which the school (once of considerable repute throughout all the neighbourhood), had been carried on, but also in the numberless other particulars in which his skill and industry had been at his neighbour's disposal, and more than all the constant teaching and example of his high Christian character. Mr. Goulden (the Rev. Gentleman observed) was that night receiving, in some sort, the reward of his services, not indeed in the gift itself with which he was presented, substantial though it might seem considering the quarters from which it was mainly derived. It was in the feelings which prompted the gift - in the ready, even enthusiastic manner in which the proposal to make it had been received, and which plainly betokened the esteem in which he was held - it was in such feelings, so expressed, that such a man as Mr. Goulden could not fail to find his reward. After explaining to those present the nature of the testimonial, the speaker concluded to this effect: "I know well, my dear Mr. Goulden, that I am uttering the feelings of all present, and of many others besides them, when I wish you in their names many years of quiet and peaceful happiness in the home which Providence has opportunely provided for you. May you enjoy for long that pecuniary advantage which we have been enabled to secure for you; and may you taste to the full the satisfaction which always comes to them who consistently endeavour to do their duty; and, further yet, the satisfaction (which does not always come to all as it has come to you), of knowing that your endeavours have been thoroughly appreciated by those among whom you have lived and laboured." At the same time, a handsome work-table was presented to Mrs. George Goulden, late infant mistress, by the girls of the parish. Mr. Goulden replied in very feeling terms, and after singing the Doxology, the rector gave the Benediction, and the meeting separated.

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