



Toronto, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1882.

Mrs J. Black  
Kildonan,  
My dear Madam,

At a meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee held during the present week, the following Minute in reference to your late husband was adopted and I was instructed to forward a copy of it - you and the family, as expressive of their sentiments. It is as follows, viz; "Having pleased God in the fulness of his wisdom to call into his rest Rev John Black, D.D. of Kildonan, the Committee desire to record their deep sense of the importance to the Church at large and especially to the Church in Manitoba and the North West of the varied labors of Dr Black during the many years in which he stood as the sole representative of Presbyterianism in that region, and they desire to express their estimate of the powerful influence for good exercised by him upon the institutions of the country, religious and educational, during what may be regarded as the formative period

of its history. By his abounding labors, his unwearied self-denial, and his uniform kindness and prudence, he has won for himself a place in the hearts of the people by whom his name will ever be held in grateful remembrance. From the beginning of his ministerial life, Dr. Black cherished a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the Indians in the North-West - an interest which took practical shape in connection with the inception of the Prince Albert Mission in the year 1866, under the late lamented James Nesbit. He rendered important aid to the Mission during its infancy and continued, as the trusted advisor of this Committee, to work for its interests to the time of his death. The Committee desire to convey to Mrs. Black and to all the members of the bereaved family, the assurance of their great sympathy with them in their affliction, and they pray that it may please God to visit them with his rich consolations; and especially that they, remembering the many amiable & sterling qualities of the departed husband and father, and his humble devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, may be enabled to imitate his faith and patience, and so with him become inheritors of the promises."



In forwarding to you and the family the foregoing Minute, allow me to say that altho' it is somewhat late in being sent, it was adopted by the Committee at the first meeting held since Dr. Black was called to his reward, and that it is no mere formal expression of sympathy. We feel the loss. For myself, I can say that from the time we studied together in Knox College, until the close of his beautiful Christian career, my respect and love for him have steadily grown, and now that he is gone, I feel that I have one tie less to earth and one more binding me to the better country. For him we cannot sorrow. He has heard the Master's voice saying, "come up higher." He should rejoice that he has reached a higher stage, and, for ourselves, seek to work and wait and be ready in our turn to follow.

With much sympathy and kindest regards. Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Black,  
Yours very truly,  
Wm. MacLaren  
Covr.

