

**HOURS OF COMMUNION IN
A SEASON OF AFFLICTION:
BEING MEDITATIONS ON
SCRIPTURE SUBJECTS**

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Hours of Communion in a Season of Affliction: Being Meditations on Scripture Subjects by Neil Smith

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NEIL SMITH

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BY

NEIL SMITH, JUN.,

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TO THE
PASTOR AND OFFICE-BEARERS

OF
The High Free Church.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In dedicating my little book to you, I believe you will give me credit for the act, not as a begging of patronage, but as affording me an opportunity of expressing my sincere respect for you all.

And at the same time it affords me the opportunity of acknowledging with much gratitude to God, that our intercourse in connection with the affairs of the Congregation has been of the kindest and most Christian character.

It must be to us all, and specially to our true and common friend the Pastor, a matter for real gratitude to God, that the affairs of the Congregation are of so truly a satisfactory character, as in the kindness of God is the real state of matters among us. We are not insensible to the fact of the many shortcomings of all, and that the pure eye which cannot look upon sin, must see much unobserved by us to vex His Holy Spirit; and thus, while we are truly called to humiliation and contrition before God, we must not overlook, or lightly esteem the tokens of His grace and favour which we do enjoy.

I am,

DEAR BRETHREN,

Your sincere friend and brother in the Lord,

A FELLOW-ELDER.

ABERDEEN, *September, 1871.*



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PREFACE.

THE author of the following pages feels that his reason for writing and then for printing them, is truly a matter in which few will feel any interest at all. He is quite aware of the plethora of books on every conceivable subject, which now make the press to groan, and leave even the reading public gasping for breath.

His pages were written in a time of enforced inaction, through the hand of God "laying affliction upon his loins." But to the glory of the mercy and loving-kindness of his heavenly father, "Christ's Father and our Father, Christ's God and our God," he has to acknowledge that the season of affliction was a time of love. The writing of these pages made many an hour pass pleasantly, which would have otherwise passed heavily; and he has learned by experience, that God hath set one thing over against another, and that while he has chosen for his child, what the child would not have chosen for himself, He hath manifested both His wisdom and His grace, by a result which shall redound to His glory and to the good of His redeemed child for ever. Oh, it is well for us, that we are not in our own keeping nor at our own