

The Editor came across the verses which provide the second item in a little volume published in Aberdeen in 1872. The author, John Davidson (1804 -71) received a University education in Aberdeen and was apprenticed to a local lawyer but preferred to spend his life in less remunerative literary and archival pursuits. His verses are unlikely to attract praise as poetry but they have some interest for the light they cast on one educated man's appreciative experience of worship at a time only a little later than that of Elizabeth Grant.

The Church

I love to hear the tolling bell
That bids me to repair
On sacred days, to worship God,
Within the "house of pray'r."

The high, the low, the rich, the poor,
The young, the old are there;
And no "respect of persons" is
Within the "house of pray'r."

Assembl'd now, the song of praise
Ascends with solemn air;
Delightful 'tis therein to join
Within the "house of pray'r."

The pastor to the Throne of Grace
Draws nigh with pious care;
And for his flock he supplicates'
Within the "house of pray'r."

This done, he next with gravity
The Bible opens, where
"A word in season" he may give
Within the "house of pray'r"

Again, pray'r follows, and in praise
The congregation share;
The blessing is pronounc'd, and then
All leave the "house of pray'r."

(Selections from *The Literary Remains of John Davidson*, Lewis Smith, Aberdeen, 1872, p.7)