

G 5583

SOUTH PLACE CHAPEL, FINSBURY,

June, 1884.

THE Committee of SOUTH PLACE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY have with much regret to announce to the Members the approaching resignation by Mr. CONWAY of his office as Minister of this Congregation.

The Committee have deemed it their duty to immediately make the Members acquainted with Mr. CONWAY'S decision, and the reasons for it; which they have also felt would be much better conveyed in Mr. CONWAY'S own words than in any of their own selection. They therefore send to each Member a copy of Mr. CONWAY'S letter, which they commend to the most sympathetic consideration.

It need only be added that a Special Meeting of the Society will be summoned in due time to consider how Mr. CONWAY'S place can be supplied with the best prospect of carrying on successfully the work to which he has for so many years devoted himself.

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[COPY OF LETTER.]

LONDON, *May 9th, 1884.*

*To the Committee of the South Place Religious Society.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

After much anxious thought, I have concluded to send you my resignation of the office I hold as Minister of the South Place Religious Society. The resignation is hereby made, to take effect at the close of the present year, 1884. I do not know that I should have done this so soon had not a paragraph appeared, unfortunately, in the press announcing my intention of returning to reside in America. How that paragraph reached the public I do not know, but suppose that some private conversation with a friend or relative in America must have passed from one to another until it fell on the ear of the New York paper which first gave it to the world.

However, the announcement—though I could have wished it first made through yourselves—was only premature. When I asked for the appointment of a colleague it had already come before me as a probability, though I then hoped not so near, that considerations of a personal nature would draw me back to my native land. My wife and I have both and equally endeavoured to prolong our stay in England, for the sake of our work in South Place, but have now made up our minds that we cannot remain in Europe longer than next year, if so long. If you should desire me to speak again at South Place in the earlier part of next year, and I am able to do so, my present resignation will not prevent it. Meanwhile, after August, the Society will again have the opportunity of listening to my colleague, to whom I have been looking, and still look, to commend himself to you as one able to carry on the work which I must leave.

It is unnecessary that I should say more concerning the reasons that have impelled me to this decision, than that they are of a purely private and domestic character, and include no dissatisfaction with South Place or with the country in which I have so long and happily resided. My residence in England was never pleasanter, and my relations with South Place, so far as I know, were never happier than at present. The giving up of South Place will mean for me giving up the ministry altogether. I have no intention of ever again taking charge of a congregation. It seems a kind of death to leave the work to which twenty-one years, representing the heart of one's life, have been devoted; and as the time of my departure draws near I trust it may be attended with kindly sentiments, and that I may have the consolation of passing away amid peace and friendship.

Faithfully yours,

MONCURE D. CONWAY.

... of both. Place will mean for the future in the history  
... the classic with which I know never before than  
... of which was never pleasant

