

in an abundant harvest to the praise of the Lord, and to his eternal rejoicing at the great feast of ingathering—at the harvest home.—*Ed.—M. H.*

***LETTER FROM W. BALLANTINE TO THE CHURCH,
MEETING IN BANK STREET.**

Beloved Brethren,

IT pleases the Lord to lay his hand upon me by a painful disease, which detains me from your assemblies: but good is his will. Have I received so much good from his hand, and shall I not receive evil also? Though absent from you, nevertheless I am present in spirit, beholding the steadfastness of your faith, and joying in the order of our heavenly Father's house. It is my earnest prayer before the throne of his grace, that we may be perfect and entire in the whole of his will, making increase with a great increase in all the fruits of the Spirit. Brethren we are called to purity in soul, body, and spirit, and to abound in that holiness, the holiness of the truth, without which no one shall see the Lord. I am filled with joy, when I consider your association in the kingdom of our Lord. Such is your church state, that, delivered from the sects of the present day, you may walk in the fear of the Lord, in comforts of the Holy Spirit, being edified and comforted, building up each other in your holy faith. Brethren, I beseech you, improve your vast advantages. Never forsake the assembling of yourselves together, and engage with all the holy fervors of devotion continuing steadfastly in the teaching of the Apostles, in the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers: and ever remember, that these ordinances of Heaven are intended and calculated, by the supply of the Spirit of all grace, to keep up a continued intercourse with our heavenly Father through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus our assembling together will be for the better, and not for the worse. Be concerned also, brethren, to come behind in no gift, that you be able to edify one another in love. Remember that every good and perfect gift is from the Father of lights, and that he hath said, "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally."

Liberal, indeed, are his thoughts and ways towards us. Since I had the happiness of meeting with you, I have indeed endured a great fight of affliction, nor did I ever think I should again be able to put pen to paper; but, blessed be his name, he has enabled me to endure. Lying in his hand, I have been able to say, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come," I must say to the praise of his glorious name, that while my outward man has been perishing, my inward man has been renewing day by day. I can tell no one the pains, oppression, and uneasiness of body I have

**Written during his last illness.*