

to us calls for the earnest expression of devout gratitude to Him by whose grace alone this saving work has been wrought.

That all the funds of the Church should have been not only sustained, but augmented as in former and more prosperous years, could scarcely have been reasonably expected, in view of the almost unparalleled state of commercial depression which has existed in the country. We are not unmindful of the sacrifices which in very many instances you have made in supporting the institutions of the Church to the extent to which they have been supported; and we regard it as matter of thankfulness that the shrinkage in our income has not been greater than it has actually been. It is not forgotten by us that some of the most liberal supporters of our evangelistic and benevolent schemes have been among the greater sufferers from the financial crisis which is upon us. Owing to the frugal, temperate and industrious habits which a pure spiritual Christianity produces, it may well be doubted whether the members of our Church generally have suffered as severely as some others have done; but, in a calamity so general, it were impossible that any considerable class should entirely escape. A few of the more prudent may have foreseen the evil and hidden themselves; but many, by no means their inferiors, through no fault of their own, in spite of everything that prudence and forethought could do to prevent it, have been overtaken by the storm, and have had the garnered fruit of the thought and toil of years entirely swept from them, while others have been so crippled in their resources that decided retrenchment has become an absolute necessity. We are not ignorant of the struggle which it has cost some of these princely men to reduce the amount of their contributions to benevolent and Christian objects. Their retrenchment has not been the retrenchment of selfishness, which, but too often, begins at the house of God, but a retrenchment which has been imposed by necessity, or dictated by a proper regard for the rights of men, for the honour of religion and the glory of God. We assure all such of our profoundest sympathy, and our thorough appreciation.