

fellowship of the church only such individuals as possess a clear acquaintance with the doctrine of the bible, and exhibit a demeanour such as would accord with the christian profession, the numerous declensions that take place from the membership shew how feeble is the hold which, in many cases, the truth has taken of the heart.—Under the fostering care of British churches our congregations will, I believe, at some future period, rise to a position of vigour and influence which might warrant their being left to their own resources; but if British aid were withdrawn at the present juncture, the consequence would be disastrous in the extreme. The Baptist denomination, which did such an important work in Jamaica, and whose influence was at one time so extensive in the island, has suffered largely from the connection between it and the home church having terminated. The Baptist church in England—judging from the size of congregations in Jamaica, that foreign help was no longer needed—withdrawed their support, and the result is, that the membership of the Baptist churches in Jamaica was, last year, sixteen thousand less than it was twenty-five years ago.—The experience of missions in Jamaica is teaching the important lesson to churches in Britain and elsewhere, that when individuals are raised out of heathenism, and formed into christian congregations, patience must be exercised towards them, and many years must elapse before the responsibilities of old and tried congregations, in civilized countries, can be put upon their shoulders.

An important institution connected with the Presbyterian mission in Jamaica is that of the week-day schools. The teachers are educated at Montego Bay Academy, and must go through a course of four years' study in English, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, before they are allowed to take charge of a school. The examination of the academy at Montego Bay takes place twice a year. I was present at two of the examinations, and witnessed, with much delight, the progress that had been made by black youths, who were qualifying themselves to become instructors of the rising generation in different parts of the island. Had any

one who regards the intellect of the negro as inferior to that of the white man, been present, his views would have undergone a modification, for although there was a number of white boys in attendance, the sons of merchants and others in Montego Bay, the leading prizes for English Composition, Map drawing, Latin, and Mathematics, were carried off by black and coloured youths. The academy is taught with much efficiency by the Rev. George B. Alexander, M. A., an old fellow-student of my own,—and I need not say how delighted I was on coming to Jamaica, to find one who had pursued the same course of study with me in Scotland, holding an office of so much importance. When a student, after completing his four years' course at Montego Bay, takes charge of a school, he receives a salary of £30 stg. per annum from the Mission Board in Scotland, the use of a dwelling house, and as much as he can make by the fees.

My sphere of labour is Hampden, on the north side of the island, about seven miles from Falmouth, and sixteen miles from Montego Bay. The congregation is the oldest and largest connected with the Presbyterian denomination in the island. It was formed by the Rev. George Blyth, who, after labouring for twenty-five years with great devotedness, found it necessary, on account of his health, to return to Scotland. There are at present above six hundred communicants, and the Sabbath attendance in the course of the year is from five hundred to seven or eight hundred, according to the character of the weather. There are twenty-four Sabbath classes conducted by an equal number of teachers, and attended on an average by 240 scholars. Connected with the congregation there are now four week-day schools, which impart instruction in the course of the year to not fewer than 300 children.

My sphere of labour is extensive, and my congregation may be said to comprise representatives of every class in Jamaica. My Sabbath audience embraces planters, overseers, and field labourers, engineers, carpenters, coopers, plumbers, and other tradesmen, store-keepers and freehold settlers. The subscriptions of members vary