

for 750, and has a steeple, in which hangs the only bell in St. John's, which rings to call Protestants to public worship; it has a vestry containing two rooms, is well lighted and comfortable, and would be much more so if the heating arrangements were improved. Its situation is very commanding; but what it thus gains in appearance it loses in convenience, for, in winter especially, it is really difficult of access. The congregation is very small, numbering only about 300, and consequently a great part of the church is necessarily unoccupied. Adjoining it are a neat little Manse, a school-house and school-master's house.

And now, as to my work. I found in the outset several external discouragements. In the first place, the business in St. John's is very peculiar; there are alternately three months of extreme activity and three months of almost idleness. I arrived not long after the busy season had begun, and consequently during the whole of my stay, it was almost impossible for men to come to any meeting during the week, or for me to get an hour's private conversation with them, and even on Sabbaths they were fagged and disinclined for much mental or spiritual exercise.

This was one of the chief hindrances to the success of an effort which was not confined to the congregation. I was very anxious to get a Young Men's Christian Association established in the city. But at this season most of the young men were working until a late hour every night except Sabbath, and it would have been next to impossible to get anything like a general meeting of them during the week. This, of course, was not in itself sufficient to prevent the formation of an Association. But after pressing the matter for three or four weeks, I was forced to abandon it. I was assured on all sides that it was useless to seek the co-operation of the Episcopalian clergy. The other denominations wished it all success, and promised to co-operate with any suitable person who would undertake the burden and responsibility of it for the first year. But such a person was not to be found. Most who seemed suitable either shrunk timidly back, or found their hands already fully occupied with work. The failure of an Association which was in

existence two years ago, rendered many timid who otherwise might have been more hopeful. And finally I had to give the matter up.

Another difficulty which met me in the work of the congregation was the impossibility of getting any person to take part in the prayer-meetings. Only one man in the congregation was willing to be called on to pray—the excellent young Superintendent of the Sabbath School,—and he was now precluded by business from attending. Again, the weather was almost invariably bad; and finally, my health was like the weather.

One of these difficulties was partially removed by an arrangement into which I entered with Rev. T. Hall, the Minister of the Congregationalist Church. He kindly asked me to co-operate with him, offering to assist me in my prayer-meeting, if I would assist him in one of his. To this I gladly agreed, and both the congregation and I have great reason to be thankful for it. The benefits which they and I received were not merely from Mr. Hall's addresses and prayers in our meeting; there were blessings which came indirectly, and which cannot be measured. He had been receiving a blessing in his church, he was earnestly seeking for more, and his warm sympathy and encouragement, and his lively seeking and looking for the working of God's Spirit and present results, were of more use to me, and through me to those among whom I laboured, than many supposed. Doubtless, ultimately to God belongs all the glory, and to Him let it be thankfully ascribed. He graciously vouchsafed me such help and encouragement, such an open door, and such manifest and quick results, as I have never yet received elsewhere. And this was more than enough to make up for all external discouragements.

There are two services on Sabbaths, in the forenoon and evening. In the afternoon the Sabbath School meets, which is pretty well attended for the size of the congregation; some of the teachers were not communicants. A uniform scheme of lessons was adopted, and at the close of the school the teachers remained for half an hour for the study of next Sabbath's lesson. In the idle season I suppose this teachers' preparatory meeting will be held on