

average attendance is about thirty, and our Sabbath collections average seven dollars, and that we have not, what is usually called, a rich man among us. And I am happy to say that we have not been compelled to resort to the questionable expedients for raising money for the Lord's treasury by tea-meetings, raffles, concerts, donation, or other deceptive parties, or by an annual raid upon our neighbors, but what has been given has been decently in hard cash. At least that is the way I view it. You may think the total for pew rents is small, but this is unavoidable with our collections at each service, and as we have nothing less than silver coinage.

We have not enjoyed the progress or prosperity expected, as the new Coal Company has not yet commenced operations, and the delay has occasioned disappointment and loss to many who invested in property and embarked in business three or four years ago on the strength of it. Very unexpected changes, too, have taken place with the present company. Extravagant management, it is said, has involved them in serious difficulty, necessitating the presence here for some months of a special commissioner from England. The result of his investigation is retrenchment in every possible direction. This had led to the dismissal of many, and a reduction of wages and expenditure generally, which will doubtless be for the benefit of the company, and in the end for the place, too; but meanwhile every interest outside of the Company's has suffered. These reverses are believed, however, to be only temporary.

When I organised the congregation everything, appeared very promising indeed, but in two years some of our warmest supporters have left the place, including a few families, and no less than seven of our first committee of twelve. This going on now for four years in two different places with us, is very trying to our faith and patience. It is so pleasant to be making some progress, as in most districts in Canada, be it ever so little, from year to year, with the society and sympathy of esteemed brethren, and the assistance and counsel of church courts. The financial expenditure, too, for so far during the past six years, is out of all proportion to visible results, as compared with other colonial fields. And yet I think we have more to show, and a better foundation laid, for the amount expended than any other denomination in the colony. Still, while we cannot help at times feeling disappointed and despondent, we by no means despair, nor feel like abandoning our post as pioneer of Presbyterianism. If any flag continues to wave here, why not the *True Blue* over the Apostolic doctrine and mode of worship, proclaimed and exemplified by the scripturally accredited heralds of the cross?

There is, I believe, good reason to anticipate better times every way—religious and secular. Those best acquainted with the country have an increasing confidence in its mineral, and even agricultural resources. Misgivings and misrepresentations are gradually being overcome by the inexorable logic of facts. The gold mines have yielded larger than ever the past season. Grain, meat, vegetables, fruit, &c., are being raised in most promising quantity and quality. An incredible amount of money has hitherto been sent out of the colony for these things, which might have gone to enrich many of the thousands who were in haste to be rich, and turned away in disgust, imagining the country unfit for settlement, because it presented an appearance different from what they had been accustomed to, and they could not get bags of gold for the stooping for it.

Whatever may be the expectations or disappointments, however, we endeavour while we are so generously supported by you, faithfully and liberally to scatter abroad the incorruptible seed of the word, convinced that in God's own good time the harvest will be reaped by some one.