

the disposition to continue them has been lacking, nor because the opportunity has not been afforded us ; but because our late successful openings of new missions have temporarily embarrassed us. Believing, as we do, that a bright future lies before us, if we are faithful to God and our avowed principles, we shall be prepared for new ventures, when the means shall be at our disposal, and the door of Providence shall open before us. Influenced by this conviction, we have set apart a brother to the special task of endeavoring to remove the incubus of debt that now weighs so heavily upon us, by a personal appeal to the members and friends of the Denomination on this continent.

While, in a Denominational sense, we have enjoyed much quiet, many of the brethren have had a chequered path. All, indeed, have had their special trials, sorrows, conflicts, afflictions. Some have had to bear a more than usually heavy burden, either in personal affliction, or in consequence of the breaches death has made in their households. Our beloved Bro. Barker has been called, almost unexpectedly, to suffer the loss of his excellent wife, and has now to tread his path of life, solitary, yet not alone. Other brethren have yielded up to God, some of the lambs of their flocks, who are now safe in the upper fold.

While it has been your lot to mourn that the "fathers" have been passing away, one

by one, we have to regret the departure of two of our brethren, in their young manhood. Bro. James Collins, after a few months of suffering, from consumption, which was probably hastened by the loss of his wife and children, as well as by an accident, which brought his labors to a close in a very summary manner, has died in great triumph. Bro. Mark Hardy, a young man of great promise, after an illness of more than two years duration, in which he strongly clung to life, not from the mere desire of living, but from an intense longing to be employed in preaching Christ to fallen men, passed almost suddenly away.

As we look around upon the members of this Conference, we are painfully struck with the appearance of some of the fathers in our ministry, strong and valiant men once, good and Christ-like men now ; they are bending under the weight of many a year of honorable suffering and service in the cause of the Master. These cannot remain long with us ; they are calmly awaiting, in life's eventide, the falling of the darkness that shall hide them from our eyes. Three of our aged brethren, F. Metherall, J. Edwards, and J. B. Tapp, in addition to the feebleness of age, are greatly afflicted. For several years they have been but rarely seen in our Conferences, and the probability is, their presence will never gladden us at these annual gatherings again. Bro. Hurley, whose worth is appre-