

a good deal of interest in congregational and Church affairs. Both were good men, and really desired to promote the welfare of Christ's cause, though they showed desire in very different ways. Brother Hopeful was a bright, cheery, resolute man, who always cultivated the habit of looking on the bright side of things. He had strong faith in God, and in God's truth, and was a firm believer in the ultimate triumph of every good cause. Brother Doleful was a very different kind of man. In his innermost heart he wished every good cause to prosper, but he never had enough of hope to look upon prosperity as a probable or even possible thing. He was always haunted by the most gloomy forebodings. He saw spots on the sun, and thought every noise was the crack of doom. He never was so happy as when he was thoroughly miserable. His hopelessness was both his misfortune and his fault—his misfortune, because it was partly constitutional, and his fault because he never fought against it.

Brother Hopeful and Brother Doleful indulged in an audible soliloquy one day, a verbatim report of which may, perhaps, be useful to the readers of THE INDEPENDENT as showing the different views which two good men may take of the same situation, both being earnest, honest men.

#### BROTHER DOLEFUL'S SOLILOQUY.

Our congregational affairs don't seem to be prospering. 'I don't think our minister preaches as well as he might, and most likely he won't preach as well in a few years as he does now. I don't think that much good is being done. Very few people join the Church, and of these few I am afraid the majority are not sincere. I am afraid the most of them will backslide. The people are cold. There is very little real piety in the congregation. In fact, I don't believe there is a really good man in the congregation except Brother Growler and myself, and I am not very sure about Growler. The deacons are not up to the mark, and the managers don't seem to conduct the business properly. I know there will be a deficit at the end of the year. I am afraid the Sabbath school must go down. These children will all grow up in a few years and there may be no more children to attend. I never was the man to take trouble in advance, but how can we have a Sabbath school without children? Things are in a bad way. I tell the minister and the office-bearers every day how things are going, but they don't seem to mind me. My conscience is clear. I have done my duty.

The affairs of the Church at large are in a very bad condition. What good is done? Those people are right who say that nothing can help this world but a general winding up of affairs. Even when the great Battle of Armageddon is fought, I am afraid the wrong side will win. The wrong side always does triumph.

#### BROTHER HOPEFUL'S SOLILOQUY.

Our congregational affairs are in a fairly prosperous condition. Our minister preaches very well, and anybody who honestly desires to be spiritually benefited, and comes prepared for worship, can find good spiritual nourishment at our services. I never heard him preach a sermon that had not Gospel enough in it to save a man, and have rarely heard a sermon from him that had not truth in it that would help somebody. He has helped me many a time, and my family too. Our deacons are good men. Considering the fact that they have their own business to attend to and often have not control of their time, they do well. I am sure they do the best they can. The managers, no doubt, do their best too. Of course they cannot coin money if the people will not pay, but they do their best with the means at their disposal. I have no doubt they will be able to keep the revenue up to the expenditure, and perhaps, have a balance at the end of the year. I shall do all in my power to help them. Our Sabbath school is a blessing to the Church. It does one's heart good to see so many willing workers there and in the session and on the board of managers, who give their services year in and year out from love to the Master. Nobody can tell how much good is being done every day in the Sabbath school. It makes my heart leap for joy when I think that these boys will be ministers and elders and Sabbath school teachers and superintendents in a few years. I expect our congregation to make great progress. I don't see any reason why it shouldn't—God's work must prosper. It always goes on. Grace must triumph over sin. I hope I may have grace given me to help every good work and honest worker. We have only one drawback of any account. If Providence would reconstruct Brother Doleful, or remove him to another sphere, we might get on more easily, but we should not complain. If the Lord tolerates him we should. Perhaps, he was left here to teach us patience. He serves that purpose admirably. We can practise any amount of patience on him in five minutes.

There is much in the condition of the Church as a whole that calls for gratitude and inspires hope. We are not doing what we might do, or ought to do, or hope to do, but Congregationalism has made marvellous progress in several directions in twenty years. We don't raise as much for missions as we ought, but we raise very much more than we did. We are improving and that is a great deal. Some of our congregations pay handsomely for missionary purposes, and this is a good sign. The average Canadian does not put money in anything unless he believes in it. On the whole there is much to thank God for in the present condition of the Church. Let us help on the good work.

#### CHARGES AGAINST DR. PAUL.

The Presbytery of Jerusalem met within the Temple to investigate certain charges that had been preferred