

Monthly Messenger.

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ANNUAL ADDRESS

To the Church and Congregation in Queen's-road Chapel.

BY REV. T. HALL.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—I am profoundly thankful to our Heavenly Father that I meet with you this evening in the enjoyment of restored health. The fears expressed on this matter in my last annual address have proved to be groundless. I acknowledge the goodness of God, in answer to your prayers on my behalf. The feeling that should predominate in every heart present is gratitude. Through the varied scenes of another year the unerring hand of Providence has guided us. Our cup has been filled with good things. We have been preserved from many trials and calamities that have befallen others. God has borne with our unfaithfulness, and continued to us the means of grace—the teachings of His Holy Spirit and His blessed Word; we have had seasons of sweet communion with Him, and can now rejoice in hope of His glory. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward us? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

I thank God that I have not laboured in vain during the past year; a few have been called out of darkness into light, and are walking in the way that leads to life eternal.

During the year two of our members were called to prove the secrets of another world—both met the king of terrors with becoming Christian fortitude, and left an encouraging testimony behind—Mrs. James Tessier and Miss Julia Langmead, sisters in the flesh, as well as sisters in the Lord. They professed religion about the same time, and within a few months met in the same eternal state.

“They sleep in Jesus, and are blest.
How sweet their slumbers are.”

Every year adds to the roll of the departed. They are not lost, but gone before.

Who will be the next? Who of us present here, before this revolving year has finished its round, shall be gathered to our fathers? God alone knows; our times are in His hands. But to our place; it is probable some of us shall have gone; how diligent, therefore, should we be in preparing for that certain

event, which may take place at any moment. The needful preparation should not be put off one hour; should not be left till sickness or death comes upon us:—

“Be wise, now, mortals, while you may,
For swiftly time is flying;
The thoughtless man, who laughs to-day,
To-morrow may be dying.”

During no previous year of my ministry in St. John's have I been cheered by such regular attendance and large congregations. Both on the Lord's Day and on week evenings a marked improvement in the attendance is observed. I think we may regard this as a proof that the work of the Holy Spirit is deepening and progressing in the hearts of the hearers.

The Sabbath-school continues to engage the attention of a band of faithful teachers, and we have now a larger attendance than at any former period. Much fruit has already been reaped here, and much more is expected from the present earnest sowing.

No doubt we shall reap in due time, if we faint not.

The Mission work, we are thankful to say, continues to prosper. A third labourer has been sent forth. There is no diminution of zeal or devotion to this work in the congregation; and though, when we began the mission, and still we may say with the poet—

“Small and feeble was his day,”

we doubt not but success will crown the effort.

I have had much pleasure in the meetings of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, which has been organised during the year, and which promises to be a source of blessing to the congregation.

Now, permit me to address a few earnest words to you. There are before me two classes—the saved and the unsaved. To the first I desire to say—*Live to glorify God.* Live to do this. It is the only thing worth living for, and it is the only thing for which we are called, and for which we are left in this world. If we are not constantly doing so, there is something wrong in our hearts. The new nature prompts us to do all things, at all times, to the glory of our Heavenly Father. “Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Love one another. Be kind one to another. By