

have raised £6,000 for their distressed brethren in this district, and will do much more, besides sustaining their share towards the general relief fund of this town and the county, to which most important call of humanity I make bold to say, whoever may gainsay it, they have given their full share. How glorious the spectacle of public charity! We have 182,000 persons out of employ, 119,000 on short time, and the weekly loss of wages is reckoned at £130,000—an awful necessity. Toward this already the public subscription is nearly £400,000, and will probably reach £1,000,000. Even now the Manchester committee can expend £25,000 per month for five months. Three coal-firms in Pendleton are giving 2,000 tons of coal, and others in Ashton and Oldham 3,500. This is splendid liberality: but with all this, what is £25,000 a month, or about £5,000 a week, against £130,000 a week of lost wages? And are we in Lancashire making no sacrifices? Ours is the most splendid contribution of all to national honour. We bear the brunt of a just but severe policy, and all the horrors of a voluntary blockade. With fever and famine, bankruptcy and idleness, agony of the sufferers and exhaustion of the relievers, the great iron wheel seems crushing gradually every class and interest. Yesterday it was the operatives, to-day it is the shopkeepers, to-morrow it must be the manufacturers. Grandly patient and heroic is the attitude of the people—unbroken through months of hardships such as few other districts would have borne. The passing disturbance at Blackburn is no breach of this, for it sprang out of the provocation of the recent new Game Act, which I denounce as one of the most selfish acts of an aristocracy at a time like this. Still, it were better to bear even this patiently than incur the worst evils of turbulence and crime. And amid all this want, where is the district freer even now from crimes of violence and plunder? The metropolis is increasing its police force at the present moment, when half-starving Lancashire knows no increase of alarm. No sacrifices here? History will record them. When will government awake and see our real condition, and by some general legislative rate, hardly felt by the nation, or by some European peaceful mediation, come to the rescue of a blameless people before Lancashire collapses in a manner which will take years to recover? Let us gather together often to pray; let us exert ourselves to give. We have some employers of labour among us—not the wealthiest or largest; but they have been among the first to care effectively for the welfare of their people. I have heard some of their workpeople with flowing eyes speak of them as fathers and saviours in this bitter hour of those who work for them.” Upwards of £30 was collected for the building fund of Cannon Street Chapel at the close of the service.

DEATH OF THE REV. JAS. BENNETT, D. D.

Our obituary this week chronicles the death of one of the patriarchs of London Nonconformity. It is nearly sixty years ago since Dr. Bennett united with Dr. Bogue in writing the “History of English Dissenters,” and only last week he died. Dr. Bennett was one of the “four B’s” of the London of our early youth, and for many years has been the only dissenting minister living who saw the “Dove” sail to the South Seas, on her first missionary voyage. He was a man of ripe attainments, of active and industrious habits, and a solid and useful preacher. His name will be missed amongst us, although he has not been before the public for many years. *He is dead, and now, “the fathers—where are they?”*

By the decease of Dr. Bennett at a ripe old age, another of the standard-bearers of evangelical truth and Nonconformity has been gathered to his fathers. This venerable divine expired on Thursday afternoon last, at his residence in Gibson Square, Islington, having reached the advanced age of eighty-nine. He died rather of the gradual decay of a strong and wiry constitution, than from any particular disease, and suffered comparatively little pain in his last moments.

Dr. Bennett was educated for the ministry at Gosport, and commenced preaching in 1792. For fifteen years he was President of Rotherham college, Yorkshire,