

NEWFOUNDLAND

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ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION IN QUEEN'S ROAD CHAPEL.

BY THE PASTOR.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—I am happy to meet with you once more at the annual meeting of the church and congregation. It is usual for us on such occasions to review the work in which we have been engaged during the year, to note the evidences of success or failure, and to pledge ourselves to more earnest effort for the future. Surely we have much cause to be thankful to the Giver of all good for His continued kindness and love to us as a people. Life, and health, and friends, and earthly comforts have been spared and continued to us. While thousands have been called to pass through the valley of death, or the fires of affliction, our religious privileges have abounded. We have had line upon line, and precept upon precept.

These Divine favours lay us under solemn and weighty obligations. To us has much been given—much will be required.

God will shortly call us to render an account of our stewardship.

I am addressing some who have made no profession of religion, and I am firmly persuaded that the day of grace is nearly ended with many, therefore I cannot allow this opportunity to pass away without sounding another alarm, and giving one more gracious invitation in the name of the Lord.

It has been my earnest desire since I came among you to be clear of the blood of all men, that in the day of eternity none of you may be able to say, "If our minister had warned us faithfully, we would not now be numbered with the lost." If any harden their hearts and refuse the pardoning mercy of God, may their blood be on their own heads, not on the watchman's.

It is important that we should deal faithfully in such matters. Nothing is gained by concealment. It will not improve our condition to refuse a searching investigation. The fact that we need salvation must be faced at some time, and it will be beyond description awful if this is not done till the light of the Judgment Day makes manifest both your guilt and

doom. Be sure thy sin will find you out, is the plain teaching of the Word of God. If it does not find out the sinner in a world of mercy, it will in the regions of despair. None should trifle with eternal things; many have done so too long already, and but for the longsuffering of God, it might have been fatal trifling long since. There is a limit to even Divine forbearance, and some may be nearer that limit than they suppose.

It is thought by many of the wisest and best of our times that we are nearing a crisis in the history of our planet, when it shall be well with the righteous and ill with the wicked. Earth's foundations are insecure, but if we build upon the Rock of Ages, in the universal conflagration we shall lose nothing, but smile to see a burning world.

Therefore, my friends, delay not to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. But let me turn to the members of the church. You have made a public profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; you have been washed from all your sins in His precious blood; you have received the spirit of adoption whereby you cry, "Abba, Father"; you are sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. These are high honours, glorious privileges. Have we esteemed them such? and do we walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called? The people of the world are watching our deportment, and they have a right to expect us to be very different in our spirit and walk. They expect us to be pure in our words, upright in conversation, just in our dealings, consistent in all things.

Have we done our duty to those who are without? Having ourselves got to a place of safety, have we laboured to induce others to seek the same refuge? If we are true Christians, we cannot be unconcerned about the perishing around us, many of whom are members of our own families. We need much grace to be true witnesses for our Lord when so much depends upon our testimony. While I speak thus I rejoice that many have given proof of growing zeal and devotion to the service of God. Their constant attendance at the prayer-meetings, the Lord's table, and the public services of the sanctuary, their efforts in the Sunday-school, and in other departments of the church's work, all evince their growth in Divine grace. I have had the hearty co-operation of most members of the church