

neglected no gift. His natural endowments were diligently improved by discipline, and were studiously enhanced by acquirements nicely calculated to give them the most useful application. Nothing which might tend to the formation of a manner at once attractive and impressive was deemed beneath his notice. From experience he had found this faculty so valuable, that when advising candidates for the ministry he was apt to make the confession that he owed everything to manner. This was an extreme putting of the case; but competent judges will agree that he owed much. The remark is equally just as to his written style. Remarkably successful as most of his books have been, some of them having gone through many editions, and one—we mean his “*Auxious Inquirer*”—having been translated into many languages, they owe nothing to the novelty of the theme discussed, but little to originality of treatment, and not much to what we hear a great deal of in these times under the name of *power*. The general acceptance which they have found among all evangelical denominations is traceable to their Scriptural tone, their practical character, their lucid order, their moderate length, their neat composition, and their entire freedom from any pretensions or technicalities which could overtask the faculties, or overshoot the habits, of the multitude of religious readers. Nearly all of them were executed with so much judgment, and finished with so much taste, as to place them at the head of modern books of their own kind, and to confer upon some of them a standard value, with something like a classical rank. All who were accustomed to hear him in his best days must remember the extraordinary fascination and power of his voice. It was one of the grandest instruments God ever gave to man; it comprehended all the best and most effective tones of all the most remarkable orators we have ever listened to; and he used it, as he used every element of power with which nature had endowed him, to the very best advantage. Its melting pathos, its terrible thunder, its pleasant music, its trumpet-like call to duty, are ringing in our ears still. Even to the last it retained much of its old melody and power.”

“In his most recent publication, on “*The Spiritual State of our Churches*,” Mr. James thus contrasts the present prosperity of his Church and congregation, with its inactivity and lack of zeal when he first accepted its oversight:—

“When I became pastor of my church, more than 53 years ago, the only object of congregational benevolence and action was the Sunday School, which was then conducted in a private house, hired for the purpose. There was nothing else; literally, nothing we set our hands to. We had not then taken up even the Missionary Society. We have now an organization for the London Missionary Society, which raises, as its regular contribution, nearly £500 per annum, besides occasional donations to meet special appeals, which upon an average make up another £100 a year. For the Colonial Missionary Society we raise annually, £70. For our Sunday and day schools, which comprehend nearly 2000 children, we raise £200. We support two town missionaries, at a cost of £200. Our ladies conduct a working society for orphan mission Schools in the East Indies, the proceeds of which reach, on an average, £50 a year; they sustain also a Dorcas Society for the poor of our town; a Maternal Society, of many branches, in various localities; and a Female Benevolent Society, for visiting the sick poor. We have a Religious Tract Society, which employs ninety distributors, and spends £50 nearly a year, in the purchase of tracts. Our Village Preachers’ Society, which employs twelve or fourteen lay agents, costs us scarcely anything. We have £40 annually for the County Association. We have a Young Men’s Brotherly Society, for general and religious improvement, with a library of 2000 volumes. We have also, night Schools for young men and women, at small costs, and Bible classes for other young men and women. In addition to all this, we raise £100 per annum for Spring Hill College. We have laid out £23,000 in improving the old chapel, and building the new one; and the erection of School-rooms, the College, and in building seven country and town small chapels. We have also formed two separate Independent Churches, and have, jointly with another congregation, formed a third, and all but set up a fourth, and are at this time in treaty for two pieces of freehold land, which will cost £700, to build two more Chapels in the suburbs of the town.”

The members forming the church at Carr’s Lane now number nearly 1000.