

voice of his longing heart, and opened his lips to ask in the very words of that blind beggar of Jericho, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" The eyes of his understanding were opened. He arose "a new man." How strange, how wonderful! A new world was revealed to him; his blindness was gone; his Saviour was found; his sins were forgiven; he was a child of God.

Having been received into the fellowship of the Willoughby Avenue Church, in Brooklyn, N. Y., he yearned to go back to his native island and tell of Jesus; and he soon set sail for Cuba. He could scarcely wait for the usual salutations of love to be exchanged with his family, so eager was he to witness to the great Saviour who had opened his blind eyes. But when his parents, brothers and sisters learned of his "apostasy from the true church," and of his embrace of the Protestant heresy, they were beside themselves with alarm and grief and forbade him to speak to them further on the subject.

For days this bitter disappointment overwhelmed his soul with darkness; and he could do nothing but in cries and burning tears appeal to God for help. At length it occurred to him, that if his kindred would not hear him, he had friends in the city who might. To these he went, and to his great delight some of them listened and said, "We will hear thee again about this matter." On a Sunday morning a number of them met him in the parlor of the Pasaje Hotel, and to that little company he preached Jesus and the Resurrection. All were impressed; many well-nigh convinced. The next Sunday the attendance was larger, and the numbers and the interest increased until the place became too small. By this time several had found peace in believing, and it was resolved to rent a hall and form a society for religious worship. The Baptist articles of faith were adopted, and only those who had been made new creatures in Christ were permitted to unite with them. Diaz preached to them every Sunday, and shortly about one hundred converts were gathered into fellowship.

One holiday, as he was passing along the shore of the bay, he saw two men fishing. He stopped and began to talk to them of Jesus and salvation. They stopped and listened, and soon another party engaged in sports drew near. Then others were attracted, until from every quarter the people began to throng. In order to command his audience, he mounted a barrel and spoke with great power the wonderful words of God. While he was addressing the eager crowd, two policemen stepped beside him, as he thought, to preserve order. But at the conclusion of his discourse he found himself under arrest. The American Consul secured his release after a short term in the guard house, but he could no longer preach on the streets. The priests resolved to crush this Protestant movement, and warned the people not to employ the heretic physician, under pain of churchly anathemas. Diaz had been supporting himself by his profession in order to make