

imposed upon us by our exalted privileges in Christ. Let us look back upon the past year to ascertain what progress we have made as a Christian Church. I am rejoiced to find that many of God's people have testified of a renewed religious life during the year. Many have been led to examine their foundations, and to do their first works. Some have come afresh to the blood of sprinkling, and have been enabled to trust on the Saviour for full pardon and justification, while a few, though very few, have attained the perfect liberty of God's people. I believe that many are still in bondage, but sighing for freedom. They know what they should be, they know that God has promised a rest to His people, and they are longing to enter it. The most cheering facts in the whole work of the Church at present are the gracious awakening and the spirit of prayer among professors—their cries for peace, for holiness, for power. I have been led by the Spirit of God myself into deeper depths and higher heights of love—of the love of God—therefore I have naturally given more attention to the edification of believers. I think there has been a defect in my ministry that I almost exclusively laboured for the conversion of sinners. I see that a revived and sanctified church will do more to bring men to the Saviour than the most eloquent sermons, or earnest appeals. Christian friends, I urge you to seek the attainment of your privileges in the Gospel. Seek union with Christ and full salvation, perfect love, and the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and our lives will preach every day.

There have been a few added to the church during the year. Many are inquiring what they must do to be saved. Two dear sisters, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Barter, have been removed to join the Church triumphant. Mrs. Cook was about three years in communion with us. She was a doubting disciple, but before the last enemy laid his cold hand upon her, she cast away her fears, and in full trust reposed her spirit on the Lord her righteousness.

Mrs. Barter was only a few weeks in fellowship with the church below till she was beckoned away to the Church triumphant. Her faith was strong. Her sun set down without a shadow or a cloud. Indeed, it was a privilege to stand by her in the last moments. Her chamber seemed truly "quite on the verge of heaven."

The Sabbath-school continues to promise fruit in coming years. The teachers are punctual and earnest. The attendance marked by regularity and increasing numbers. Some of the young people have lately declared themselves on the Lord's side, and we expect soon to number several of them among the lambs of the flock. And one dear girl from our school has been called to join the shining hosts above.

### THE MISSION WORK.

Continues to prosper. The interest of the church this is not only unabated but is much increased.

A third agent we hope will soon be added, and we confidently expect to continue and extend our operations, till there are men in every part of the island preaching a pure Gospel, untrammelled in their work by human systems. Wherever Congregationalism has been adopted as the form of church government, their civil and religious liberty have flourished. Every candid student of history will admit that both England and America owe much of their greatness to the robust Christianity of our Puritan Fathers. Without in the least disparaging other churches, we firmly hold that churches of our faith and order are in full accord with the spirit of the New Testament, and, therefore, are best for the nation as well as the individual.

It is gratifying to be able to say, that, after a pastorate of about eight years in this church, there is *harmony and peace throughout our borders.*

There is not, so far as I know, one jarring element among us. My devotion to the church in this city, and to the work of God in the island grows and strengthens with every passing year. Yet I cannot hide it from myself, and it must be apparent to you, that from some cause or other my health has not been at all good for the past two years. What may be the will of God concerning me I know not; I have sensibly felt the severe winter of last year, and for so far this one has been more serious in its effect upon me.

It would not be wise on my part, under all the circumstances of the case, to continue until a complete breakdown is the result; therefore, it may be the will of Providence that before long I shall be compelled to relinquish a position I have highly esteemed, and never so highly as at this present hour. But I say emphatically, that before I take such a step I will endeavour to obtain the mind of the Spirit. I am aware of nothing that would so quickly decide me, as the alarming symptoms of failing health to which I have referred. Should it be so, I have the satisfaction of knowing that the Church will be in a position, financially, to call a suitable successor.

This is a fitting time and place to give expression to my sense of gratitude to the members of the congregation for their kind forbearance of late, as I have not been able to visit with my wonted regularity, and I have not heard much complaining! I wish to say, moreover, that my heart has been often cheered by many tokens of your esteem, sympathy, and love. I desire while I am among you to serve you faithfully in the Lord. I long for the full salvation of every one of you. I can have no greater joy than to know that you are walking in the love of God, and in the light and liberty of His children. I need your prayers. I ask them. Pray that my health may be established. Pray that I may be filled with the Holy Ghost, and that I may yet reap a rich harvest of souls in this land.

When our work on earth is finished, may we meet upon the shining shore. Till then may we live with eternity in view, with the judgment day before our minds, and with Christ formed in our hearts the hope of glory.

So prays your loving and devoted

PASTOR.