

enlisted the sympathy of several devout Christian men and women. So far, therefore, my brethren, as regards *the Spiritual part* of my work here, all things taken into consideration, I have every reason to be satisfied and encouraged; and as to the *Public Services*, the earnestness, the reverence, the heartiness, of our congregational praise and prayer leave me little to desire. Indeed, for my own part, I aim and wish for nothing more than such services as we have enjoyed this day.

But now, for a moment, suffer me to ask how has this been attained? I appeal to your own recollection, whether my life has not been one of unceasing trial and difficulty as well as of anxious harassing labour? While endeavouring to do my duty to the Church and your souls, as I have stated it, I have received but little encouragement. Suspicions have been freely flung on me. My motives have been impugned on every side. The most painful misrepresentations have been made of my views and intentions, and circulated to my serious disadvantage. Every simple ornament added to beautify the House of God, every contribution to the decency of our sanctuary, every stained-glass window (subscribed for mainly by persons not members of this congregation) but all done for *your edification*,—everything has been sneered at, if not opposed. The slightest slip, the slightest change of movement has been watched and magnified and interpreted into some deep and dark design to upset your faith and endanger your salvation. Brethren, be not surprised if this at last becomes intolerable: if the spirit wearies with years of persistent opposition and misrepresentation. And yet, all this and more I should bear,—for I know that all they who will live Godly lives must suffer persecution at the unbelieving world's hands, and “a good soldier of Jesus Christ,” must ever be prepared to “endure hardness;”—and, let me add, it is not this that has finally influenced my decision—*did I see the same advance in temporal things as in spiritual things.*

Here, my dear friends, I come to that in which I confess with great sorrow I have failed. The distrust which has, God knows without any reason, been sedulously sown all around, seems to have taken such root in the Congregation,