

THE JAMAICA RECORD.

VOL. 2.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA. SEPTEMBER 1906.

No. 9

Trials.

THE work of pruning and purifying to fit us for heaven, is a great work, and will cost us much suffering and trial, because our will is not subjected to the will of Christ. We must go through the furnace till the fires have consumed the dross, and we are purified, and reflect the Divine image. Those who follow their inclinations and are governed by appearances, are not good judges of what God is doing. They are filled with discontent. They see failure where there is indeed triumph, a great loss where there is gain; and like Jacob, they are ready to exclaim "All these things are against me," when the very things whereof they complain are all working together for their good.

No Cross, no Crown! How can one be strong in the Lord without trials? To have strength, we must be placed in circumstances where our faith will be tried. The Apostle Paul just before his martyrdom, exhorted Timothy, "Be thou partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God." It is through much tribulation that we are to enter the kingdom. Our Saviour was tried in every possible way, and yet he triumphed in God continually. It is our privilege to be strong in the strength of God under all circumstances, and to glory in the cross of Christ.

The very trials that test our faith most severely, and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are designed to

lead us nearer to Christ that we may lay all our burdens at his feet, and receive the peace he will give us in exchange. When we surrender ourselves entirely to God, when we fall all broken upon Jesus, we will be rewarded by a victory the joy of which we have never yet realized. As we review the past with a clear vision we will see that at the very time when life seemed only a perplexity and a burden, Jesus himself was near seeking to lead us into the light. Our Father was by our side, bending over us with unutterable love, afflicting us for our own good, as the refiner purifies the precious ore. When we have thought ourselves forsaken, he was near us to comfort and sustain. We seldom view Jesus as he is, and are never so ready to receive his help as he is to help us.

What a victory we will gain when we learn to follow the opening providences of God with a grateful heart and a determination to live with an eye single to his glory, in sickness or health, in abundance or want. Self is alive and quivering at every touch. Self must be crucified before we can overcome in the name of Jesus, and receive the reward of the faithful.

Great things are before us, and we want to call the people from their indifference to get ready. We are not now to cast away our confidence, but to have firm assurance firmer than ever before. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us and he will help us to the end. We will look to the monumental pillars, reminders of what the Lord has done, to comfort us and to save

us from the hand of the destroyer. We want to have fresh in our memory every tear the Lord has wiped from our eyes, every pain he has soothed, every anxiety removed, every fear dispelled, every want supplied, every mercy bestowed and thus strengthen ourselves for all that is before us through the remainder of our pilgrimage. We cannot but look onward to new perplexities in the coming conflict, but we may look on what is past as well as what is to come, and say, hitherto hath the Lord helped us. "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." The trial will not exceed the strength which shall be given us to bear it. Then let us take up our work just where we find it, believing that nothing can come but that strength will come proportionate to the trial.

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN. ST. MARY.

The Members of the little Company at this place are all of good courage and increasing both in numbers, and in the knowledge of the Son of God. On June 24, four persons were baptized by Elder Fletcher, and since then two more have determined to stand under the banner of Jesus, and to press the battle to the gates of the enemy.

A few weeks ago we visited a little district, where two souls are keeping the Sabbath. The Lord came very near in the meeting which we held. Many are interested in the message, and we are looking forward to the time when they will throw down their weapons of rebellion and shout aloud the battle-cry of Jesus. A piece of land has been given for a Church Building, and we hope that the songs of Zion will soon be ringing o'er the plains, as the worshippers gather together in the Lord's house.

JOSEPH KELLY.

The Field Work.

GRAND CAYMAN.

GEORGE TOWN.—In the midst of fierce opposition from the ranks of the enemy, our hearts are made glad in seeing some fruit of our labour. Since my last report to the Record, a young man has accepted the Sabbath, has discarded many of his evil habits and is making rapid improvement in the study of present truth.

I spent two weeks at the east-end of the island, and as a result eight have taken their stand for the truth. One is a member of the Holiness Society, and another a prominent man in the district. He was at one time an elder of the Presbyterian Church; but on becoming dissatisfied, he wrote to the Roman Catholics to start their mission in the island. He, however, found the errors of that body and dropped his correspondence.

Brother McLaughlin who has lived the truth in that neighbourhood for nearly fourteen years, has had the pleasure of seeing his wife and two of his children accepting the message. He has given a lot of land for the purpose of erecting a Church Building. The School Teacher also is deeply interested, and has promised to unite with us. The seed has been sown, and the spirit is at work.

F. HALL.

CLARENDON.

MAY PEN.—The grand old message is rousing the dwellers in these parts of the field. Day after day earnest souls are enquiring after truth. The enemy seeing this, is working with all craftiness to overthrow the little band; but brethren, we can send you the good words, we are of a good courage and determined to enter the promised land with our banners waving and the glorious song of triumph upon our lips.

We are hard at work securing the lumber for our Church Building, and completing our arrangements for opening our church school on the 24th. Brethren pray for us, that we may be strengthened in keeping the banner of the Prince of Peace unfurled in the sight of the enemy.

J. ATKINSON.

GERMAN TOWN.

ULSTER SPRING.—Some time ago the members of the Christiana Company started a systematic work with the Caribbean Watchman. Many copies of the paper were sent to friends in the district surrounding Ulster Spring. The Lord blessed the work, and the result is to be seen today in the little company of believers at German Town.

During Elder Enoch's visit to Warsop, three of the present members took their stand for the truth. Seeing the interest, Elder Beckner instructed me to begin meetings in the district. The Lord blessed the effort and four precious souls stepped out. The company now numbers eight. Five of these were baptized on the morning of July 25, by Elder Fletcher. The baptism has created a stir among the people and some are becoming interested. There are many precious souls here, and I am sure that a determined effort will bring out some. We are of good courage, and have pledged to do all in our power for the cause of Jesus in these parts.

ARTHUR HALL.

TRELAWNEY.

WARSOP.—Our general meeting which came to its close on the 9th, will be a time long remembered by all who were present. It was indeed a spiritual feast. The Spirit of the Lord came very near, and hearts

thrilled with joy as the glorious gospel truths were presented. Many of the brethren and sisters of other companies were present. All the meetings were well attended, but especially the meeting on Sunday night, when the members of other churches joined with us. At the close of the service, two decided to walk with the commandment keepers. Our prayer is that the resolutions made at this time may be lasting, and that those who have reconsecrated their lives to the Lord for active service, may continually look to Jesus, our unfailing leader for all things.

THOMAS KENNEDY.

MANCHESTER.

CRAIG.—The work in these parts is encouraging. During the past month two more have manifested their confidence in the word of God, by stepping out boldly to keep the Sabbath, and to begin the work of personal preparation, that they may be able to stand in the day when the Son of man shall come with all His holy angels, to gather his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. We are making arrangements for erecting a place of worship. A kiln of lime, nineteen feet in diameter, has just been finished, and as soon as the heavy rains are over, we expect to enter the woods to prepare the lumber and shingles. The believers are very zealous, and they are showing it by their hearty response to both spiritual and temporal duties. The meetings are well attended, and the interest is quite lively. The general meeting at Warsop has put new life in us, and we are determined to go forward in the strength of the Lord. Pray for the humble worker here brethren.

CHARLES MEED.

Field Notes.

Brother Rashford is now making arrangements to leave Manchioneal, and make an effort in Bath (St. Thomas) and the surrounding districts.

The time for the annual session of the Jamaica Conference is fixed for January 11 to 27, 1907. The West Indian Union Conference will also hold its first session in connection with this conference. We expect that great things will be accomplished at this gathering, and earnestly invite all our brethren to get ready for this grand time.

Elders Jones, Fletcher, and Randle are doing their best to make the general meetings in Conference district No. 2, a decided success. The Lord is blessing the efforts put forth, and we hope to see many additions, and much more energy in all the churches and companies of the district.

On Sabbath 22nd Brother Norman Johnston, our Conference Secretary, sailed for New York. He expects to stay in that city for a few days, for the purpose of attending the camp meeting, and visiting among the leaders of the work there for general information. From thence he goes to the New England Sanitarium, Boston, to undergo a surgical operation. It is expected that he will be away for about nine weeks. The office work will be carried on by Elder Strickland assisted by Brother W. Beacher, of Port Maria.

Elder Beckner reports encouragingly of the work on the Industrial School farm. The boys are all of good courage, and they have started

ploughing and planting. They are expecting a good crop soon. The Lord is truly preparing the way for the opening of this great institution during the coming year. Of a truth He hath made bare His holy arm, in this finishing time. Let us make bare our arms also, so that they may easily reach deep down into our pockets, and bring up our pledges for this work.

A Scripture Directory.

For the blues, read the twenty-seventh Psalm; for an empty pocket-book, the thirty-seventh; if people seem unkind, read the fifteenth chapter of John; if one is losing confidence in men, the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians; if discouraged about one's work, the one hundred twenty-eighth Psalm; if tempted to see one's self larger and the world smaller all the time, the nineteenth Psalm; if one can not have one's own way in everything, the third chapter of James; and if one is all out of sorts, the twelfth chapter of Hebrews should be read.—SELECTED.

OBITUARIES.

PARCHMENT.—Died at Southfield, August 25th, J. Alonzo Parchment, son of Brother William Parchment, aged 6 years. After a day's illness Alonzo died. His death is keenly felt in the home,

BAILEY.—Died at Moorse, July 9th, Sister Olivia Bailey, aged 76 years. Being weak, she was brought to the house of her daughter, Sister M. Killenbeck, where she spent her last days. Sister Bailey withstood the truth for some time, but was drawn closer and closer to it through the good influences of her son-in-law, Brother A. B. Killenbeck. At Brother Hall's farewell meeting to the Moorse Company, before his departure for Grand Cayman, she decided to walk with God's Commandment keeping people. She died with the words "There is a happy land, far, far away," and was laid away to await the call of the Liferiver.