

7. THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE RIDEAU CANAL.

In 1827, Col. By passed up to commence the Rideau Canal. This costly work made no small stir on the hitherto quiet Ottawa. The embryo town, bearing the Colonel's name, grew apace. The construction and trade of the canal, the fast settling of the surrounding country, and the increasing extent of the lumber trade, united to push Bytown rapidly forward. An interesting incident connected with the first flight of locks ascending from the Ottawa, is the fact that the renowned Sir John Franklin laid the foundation stone. Sir John happening to pass on one of his overland trips northward, was assigned the honor. Lady Franklin, when in Ottawa, in 1861, was shown the stone her lamented husband had laid so long before.

During the progress of the canal, the demand for farm produce was great, and prices ranged high. The settlers along the river felt the benefit. Clarence improved rapidly; settlers came in fast; and those previously located improved in circumstances. The blessing of a day school was added to the Sabbath school. A church, receiving frequent additions, watched over by Mr. Edwards, was exerting a beneficial influence on the whole community.

The necessity for manual labor, on the part of Mr. Edwards, being lessened, he devoted his time more fully to ministerial work. Not having been hitherto formally designated to the charge of a church, he was, in 1831, ordained. About that time an Act was passed in Upper Canada, to enable other than Episcopal and Presbyterian ministers to marry. Mr. Edwards took advantage of the law, and supplied a want long felt. Previously, candidates for wedlock had to make long journeys, or content themselves with the services of a magistrate.

Many amusing anecdotes might be told of the doings of some J.P.s, in early days, in the back woods, both in their style of tying matrimonial knots, and administering justice. Nice points of law were not studied; in fact some of their workshops were a law unto themselves. One of these, an old officer, who had served under Wellington and loved dispatch, would put up a notice on a Saturday, stating "This is the first, second and third time of calling," and marry the couple on the following Monday. Any case in the whole calendar civil or criminal, he would take hold of—breaches of promise, or cases of debt, just as readily as breaches of the peace.—From "*Scenes in the Life of a Canadian Pioneer*," in *New Dominion Monthly* for August.

8. "GREAT CIRCLE" TRAVEL.

It is not known by everybody, though perhaps most people have been told of it several times, that, for all purposes of navigation, Puget Sound is nearer the great Asiatic marts than is San Francisco. Even if the vessels going out from the Golden Gate took their course direct for Hong Kong or Shanghai, they would, by reason of the longer degrees of latitude farther south, scarcely have less sailing than by bending round more to the north. But, in point of fact, the prevailing winds and ocean currents of the Pacific are such that vessels from Asia find their most eligible route bringing them within fifty miles of the entrance to Puget Sound; thus making by the Northern Pacific, when completed, a saving of nearly a thousand miles of ocean navigation. This, added to the diminution of distance overland already alluded to, gives us a route from our Eastern cities to the coast of Asia shorter than any other by about fifteen hundred miles. When this road shall be in successful operation, the time required to reach the Pacific Coast by means of it from New York City will not exceed about four days, allowing an average rate of movement of thirty miles an hour. Thence to Shanghai, in China the voyage will occupy eighteen to nineteen days, at the mean rate of twelve miles an hour; making twenty-two to twenty-three days in all from New York,—a less time than is now occupied in making the voyage by way of the Isthmus to San Francisco.—From the article on the "NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COUNTRY," by Dr. Geo. M. Steele, in the August number of "*Old and New*."

IV. Short Critical Notices of Books.

—APPLIED LOGIC, edited, with a preface, by the Rev. D. Nelles, Professor of Logic, in Victoria College. The learned President of Victoria University has rendered valuable service to the cause of sound criticism, depth of thought, and accuracy of judgment by the publication of this admirable summary of Applied or Practical Logic. The work, which is now the standard text book on Logic in the Victoria University, is made up of two standard contributions to the science of Logic. The first is the

most valuable portions of the famous "Port Royal Logic," and the second is a reprint, in full, of Sir William Hamilton's equally noted lectures on Modified Logic. As the editor justly remarks, "Those who have not mastered the elements of formal or technical logic, as well as those who have, may derive immense advantage from a careful perusal of these pages. The work is neatly printed, and issued from the Wesleyan Book Room, Toronto.

—HISTORY OF M. E. CHURCH IN CANADA.—By Rev. Thos. Webster. This is a valuable contribution to the early religious history of this Province. Many of the facts and incidents related by the writer are deeply interesting and instructive—illustrative of the personal zeal, devotion and courage of the pioneer fathers of Canada, and of the genuine love to their Master which glowed in their bosoms. In a work like this, designed to be partly vindicatory and argumentative we are not surprised at the vehement tone of personal references in some parts of the book, though we regret the necessity, which the writer evidently felt was imposed upon him, to infuse into his History a spirit of controversy. Apart from this, the biographical sketches and anecdotes in the book are racy and genial—indicative of the kindness of heart and warmth of affection which is characteristic of the writer. The work may be obtained at the *Canada Christian Advocate* office, Hamilton.

—CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, edited by Rev. Chas. J. S. Bethune, M.A., Toronto; Copp, Clark & Co. The cultivation of a taste for the study of Natural History which this *Journal* seeks to promote, is worthy of all commendation. We, therefore, sincerely welcome this interesting and useful publication. In the hands of its amiable and accomplished editor, we have no doubt the subject itself will be popularized, and habits of observation and study of the "wonderful works of God," as exhibited in the countless variety of living objects around us, will be promoted and extended. Such a study affords at once personal gratification and innocent amusement, while the pursuit itself will, to the thoughtful mind, afford ample food for profitable reflection on a deeply interesting subject, and tend to elevate the thoughts from "Nature up to Nature's God." We, therefore, heartily commend this publication to our readers.

—CANADIAN LITERARY JOURNAL.—Flint and Van Norman, Toronto. This new candidate for literary favour appeals to the public for support, with a quietness and modesty which disarms criticism. Its aim and purpose is good, we only fear its proprietors are too sanguine of success—with the sad fate of so many of our Canadian Magazines before them. However, we welcome this new efforts to win popular favour with sincere pleasure. While so many of our young men seek to gratify their tastes only by depraving them, and those of their companions, we cannot but regard with respect and commendation the employment of the time and talents of the proprietors of this *Journal* in so agreeably and usefully seeking to elevate the tastes, and cultivate the moral and religious feeling of their readers in this publication. The two numbers before us, present an agreeable variety of original and selected articles. The proprietors propose still further to enlarge and add to the interest of the publication. We wish them success.

—NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.—Montreal: John Douglass & Son. The success so far of this Canadian Magazine has been most gratifying. This is no doubt owing no less to the energy of the publishers than to the purely Canadian character of the Magazine itself, and to the general ability with which it is conducted. The contents are very varied, and present an interesting collection of articles for perusal. We insert a part of one of them in this number of our *Journal*.

—CHURCHMAN'S MAGAZINE MONTHLY REVIEW.—Hamilton: Spectator Office. This publication issues in the interest of the Church of England. It is creditable in appearance, and exhibits evidence of life and vigour in the venerable body which it represents. Most of the articles are original, and sufficiently varied to interest the general reader.