

Communications.

To the Editor of the Christian Observer.

DEAR BROTHER,—The Lord has of late visited the Second Church in Lobo, where I have been labouring the past year, and where I still continue to labour half of my time, with some mercy drops from his gracious throne, reviving the hearts of his children with new accessions to the ranks of the faithful in Christ Jesus. Five have recently followed in the footsteps of Jesus in the holy ordinance of immersion, and have entered the fellowship of the church of Christ. Others are expected to follow soon. The work is deep and gradual. The congregation is overflowing and deeply serious. The countenance of many evince the solicitude of their minds. This is very encouraging to our hearts. The Lord has not forgotten to be gracious unto his dear people. "His mercy is very great towards those that fear him; and his faithfulness unto children's children."

Yours in the bonds of the gospel.

A. CHUTE.

Nilestown, July 2, 1852.

The Old Baptist Church, Charlotteville.

To the Editor of the Christian Observer.

DEAR BROTHER,—Permit me, through the columns of the *Christian Observer* to state a few facts and reflections upon the origin, progress, and present condition of one of the oldest Regular Baptist Churches in Western Canada.

As I have ministered upwards of four years in this church, and held much christian intercourse with the people; and as its older members will soon be gone, the present time seems suitable to place upon record what their memories have preserved of God's goodness to them as a people and a church of Christ. Its origin being contemporary with the township of Charlotteville, a brief notice of the present condition of the township will not be without its interest.

Charlotteville is bounded on the south by a part of Lake Erie and the Bay of Long Point; on the west by the township of Walsingham; on the north by Windham; and on the east by Woodhouse. It is watered by four small creeks: on the south corner by Evans' creek, which runs into a part of Big creek, the north east part by Paterson's creek, and the south east by Hay's creek, which empty themselves into Lake Erie. The roads are in general good; the soil is mostly sand in the south west part and centre, iron (bog ore) is found but not to much extent. On the south front there is good fishing ground, where at some seasons considerable numbers of white fish, pike, black and white bass, and various other kinds are caught. The general productions are wheat, corn, oats and buck-wheat; potatoes are also cultivated to a great amount. The returns of last year show that there was 63,118 pounds weight of butter made, and this is supposed to be rather under the real quantity produced. There is some vacant land of a light sandy loam, in the north west part of the

township, held by private individuals for sale, there are several marshes which would make good meadows by slight draining and cultivating. This will suffice for its location and physical structure: its moral and religious features will be of greater interest to the readers of the *Christian Observer*.

The provision for common school education, in and around Vittoria is ample in the number of school houses. The principal deficiency being the want of teachers.

The population of the township, by the last statistical account, amounted to 2761; of these, 888 are Baptists by profession. There is one fact which ought not to be overlooked: there are 311 males and 276 females reported as not attending the common schools in the township.

The age in which we live is remarkable for tracing effects to their cause. The causes which lead to the formation of a church of Christ, may, to the man of the world, be a subject of little importance: to the disciple of Christ, it is a matter at once pleasant and important. To the Christian philosopher, it is a topic of deep and absorbing interest to trace the foot-prints of the Creator in the formation of the world. It gives expansion to the mind to mark the same foot-prints in history. The redeemed of the Lord delight to trace and mark the operations of his love in the soul of the sinner, until it is transformed into his own glorious image. The first inhabitants of this place came from the Lower Province and New Jersey. From the United States the first preacher of the gospel supplied the spiritual wants of the people. About 48 years since, under such missionary efforts, a number of believers were baptized; and the church was organized in the barn of Oliver Mabec, who is yet alive, and now the oldest member in the church of Charlotteville. It is some proof of the progress made by the people of Western Canada, when this aged Christian sometimes informs the young around him, that when on his journey from New Brunswick to this place, he visited the place where Toronto now stands. It contained two log houses inhabited by coloured people. At the same time, two log houses, owned by the same race, made up the city of Hamilton.

Through some mismanagement, the book containing the public records of this church, was lost. But for the last 32 years the record of its public business has been carefully preserved. Its articles of faith and practice, with its covenant obligations of daily duties, from the commencement of the book, written the hands of Oliver Mabec, who gave one acre and a half of land as a gift upon which to build a church, and bury the dead.

Their faith, practice, and church order, as there laid down, have been observed with fidelity, throughout this period. In the careful examination of their recorded proceedings, I have felt astonished how a church could preserve its visibility and order, in the frequent long vacation of its pastorate. Titus Finch was their first regular pastor. His labours were valuable and often greatly blessed. His mortal remains lie in front of the old meeting house, with a neat head-stone and suitable epitaph. The names of other ministers are found in the book; but their brief labours is all that can be

found in connection with their call to labour with the church.

About eighteen months since, the principal members of the church thought, that as the village of Vittoria was upon the increase, a new and more comfortable place of worship in the village, would be necessary. In the old place, it was always found that Bible class and Sabbath School training had to be suspended one half of the year, along with other week-night religious meetings. The church met to consider these matters. The principal difficulty to be removed, was found in the attachment the people had to the ground upon which the meeting-house was built. And when every thing is considered, there is nothing to blame; there the honoured dust of two generations lie; there it pleased God to show his redeeming love in many powerful reformation meetings. These recollections filled the mind of God's people. They felt in a straight between past recollection and present duty. Time-honoured feelings yielded in favour of the religious improvement of the rising generation.

The church decided to build a house double the size of their old place; stone for the basement, and brick for the upper part; to have a gallery and belfrey; inside to be painted; the ornamental embellishments to be such as become a place of public worship. The expense of erecting the building has been about \$3000—raised among themselves. It was opened for public worship on the 20th of May last, under the most favourable tokens of the love of God.

There is a statement in the religious statistics of this township worth attention. There are 888 who report themselves as Baptists; and the demand for Baptist preaching in this township, extends beyond this influence. Here is a field white unto the harvest, and a demand for the labourers to enter upon their work. It is my hope yet to see old Charlotteville church enter into this labour from her own resources. In the meantime, I am anxious to find some brother, possessed of zeal, and a love for the souls of those who are crying for the bread of life, to assist in this portion of the vineyard. It would be worthy the patronage and care of the Regular Baptist Missionary Society. God willing, I expect to present the claim of this place, and perhaps a suitable labourer to the notice of this Society, at its annual meeting, which will soon take place.

I think it would greatly facilitate the work of missions, if each church would, through the columns of the *Christian Observer*, state their condition in relation to the destitution around them; where labourers are wanted, and the reception they are likely to meet from the people. This knowledge published in our own organ, would give to our annual meeting a greater interest, and would encourage the mourners in Zion.

ABRAM DUNCAN.

Vittoria, July 13, 1852.

One hundred and fifty persons died in New York, during the last twelve months, of delirium tremens! There were nine murders caused by rum, and nearly ten thousand five-day commitments for drunkenness during the same time.