

On Saturday morning I took stage for Woodstock. The water in the river was so low that the wheel-barrow boats which only draw about 8 or 10 inches of water were thumping and bumping on the rocks and gravel in the shallow parts. The boats, in going up stream, fare better than those going down, as it is found that in stemming the current the boats rise and draw several inches less water than when they are going with it. This, I suppose, is one of the few advantages of going "up stream." It is expected that, by the cutting of a channel to allow the waters of a lake above Grand Falls to flow into the St. John, during the dry season, the water in the river will be sufficiently high to enable the boats to run from the opening to the closing of navigation.

I found the journey by stage more speedy, and the scenery more beautiful than by the boat. The road keeps close to the river's bank all the way, and the hills are at places so high that the eye ranges over miles of the most romantic scenery, and follows the windings of the river as it twists and turns about among the elm-covered islands and rich teeming intervals. All along between Fredericton and Woodstock, at distances of a few miles, may be seen Baptist and Methodist "*Meetin'-houses*." They measure about 30 by 50 ft. Many of them are quite new, some still in course of erection. There is no tower or spire, and but futile attempts at taste or ornament of any kind. They are seldom painted; and have that dirty brown tint which the weather soon gives to clapboards and shingles when exposed to its action. The black streaks made by the rusting of the nail heads give a little variety to the roof and sides. An overgrown country school house would much resemble these "*Meetin'-houses*" in shape and beauty. The driver told us of a gentleman who, on one occasion, was travelling to Woodstock by stage, and on coming in sight of a Baptist "*Meetin'-house*," he asked a boy on the road side: "Is that a mill down there, my son?" "Yes, sir!" replied the boy, "she's a water mill, but they don't run her now!" If the people who build these would only pitch the roof higher, and arch the window tops, and put a small bell gable on the one end, it would add wonderfully to their appearance, and very little to their cost.

There are two Presbyterian places of worship between Fredericton and Woodstock. One is a small "*Meetin'-house*" in connection with the Church of the Lower Provinces, and the other a little church, with tower and belfry, at Northampton, in connection with the Church of Scotland. Neither of them has a regular pastor, and both are occasionally visited by ministers and missionaries of the two branches of the Presbyterian church. In Woodstock there are two churches belonging to the Church of Scotland, about a mile apart. One of these is situated at what is called the "Upper Corner," and is seldom occupied. The other is in the town, and is still unfinished, but the session room is large enough to accommodate all who attend the Sunday services. After Mr. Wilkins' departure, the Presbytery appointed Rev. Mr. Kidd to supply Woodstock and Richmond, and preach once at each place every Sabbath. Since Mr. Kidd left, the Presbytery have undertaken to supply services once a fortnight until a successor is obtained. The distance from Woodstock to Richmond is about ten miles. There is a large and comfortable church at Richmond, capable of seating about 450 or 500. There is also a new church, or small "*Meetin'-house*," at Oak Mountain, so that there are actually five churches in connection with the Church of Scotland, within a circle of ten miles, at present without a regular pastor. There are also two—I think—belonging to the Free Church, which are visited occasionally by a missionary, so that there are no less than seven Presbyterian churches in this district which have no regular settled minister. This is surely a lamentable state of things! and especially when one sees that it is attributable to a want of harmony and co-operation on the part of the people belonging to the two sections of the Presbyterian church. There is surely enough here to convince any honest man of the folly of allowing differences—imaginary differences