

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The first Congregational Church organized in Canada was at Quebec, during the latter quarter of the last century. I prepared an account of it for the *Canadian Independent*, which will be found in vol. viii. p. 21. The second was formed at Stanstead, on the borders of Vermont, by the late Rev. Thaddeus Osgoode. Facts concerning it are narrated *Ibid* vol. xiii. p. 443. Also, early in the present century, at least three Independent ministers came out from England under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, Messrs. Smart, afterwards of Brockville; Purkis, once of Laprairie, L. C., afterwards of ———— U. C., and Bryning, of Mount Pleasant, U. C. These three brethren all went into the Presbyterian church, leaving no Congregational marks behind them. The Quebec church lived for many years under a succession of Independent ministers, the last of whom was the Rev. George Bourne, afterwards of New York. It became Presbyterian about the year 1830, and removing from its old place of worship in John street, now occupies Chalmers' church in that city. The Stanstead church still exists, though in a feeble condition and without a pastor.

The first organized effort to supply Canada with Congregational ministers was made in conjunction with Presbyterians, (of the American type) and Baptists. I have before me the printed statement in the form of a circular. After some explanatory remarks, it proceeds: "Impressed with a deep sense of the destitute state of Canada, and the necessity of doing something to provide a remedy, a meeting was held in Montreal, on the 20th December, 1827, when it was resolved to form a society, for the double purpose of providing the means of educating pious young men for the ministry, and acting as a Home Missionary Society for Canada." Its name was, "*Canada Education and Home Missionary Society*." There were twelve articles in its Constitution, having relation to both parts of its contemplated work, and the officers were, S. Hedge, Senr., and J. DeWitt, Vice-Presidents. Rev. J. S. Christmas, Ebenezer Muir, Benj. Workman, Henry Wilkes, L. M. Janes, H. Brodie, and Lucius Winchester, Directors; Wm. Freeland, Secretary; J. Alger, Treasurer.

About seven months after this I relinquished my commercial position and proceeded to Glasgow, Scotland, in order to pursue a course of study preparatory to entrance on the work of the Christian ministry. Being requested to act for the Society in Great Britain, I induced the Rev. J. Gibbs of Banff, who was about to migrate to New England, to look at Canada first. He did so, and settled at Stanstead. Several other ministers were persuaded to come out, notably, David Murdoch, who laboured some years at Bath, Bay of Quinté, and afterwards removed to the State of New York, where he laboured long, having died only recently, leaving, if I mistake not, three sons in the ministry.

In 1831, Rev. John Smith, M.A., of Glasgow, who had returned from India because of ill health, and who had proved on the mission field an

excellent teacher and he and I were part of our scholastic appeal, and we presented a recommendation of Henderson, and Miller, Henry Fox Andrew Reed, W. Crisp, Bristol; and London Missionary Society of £10's and Hebrew Bibles, 2 upwards of 200 Library.

Rev. Richard appeal and visited the mission he required, he might also take and was the founder from Greenock, in the other proceeded there, at the same time he finished his ministry in Canada.

My visit to Canada revealed unforeseen we had undertaken society had introduced from the United States Granby, Waterloo, Matheson from Edinburgh formation of the C and Wales. A car in the *Canadian Independent*.

From the year denominational, in organized to carry Congregational principle Society's work was Rev. John Roaf, at Society, there was, Missionary Society districts, and thus in the neighborhoods, the mission were three societies in England, acting by and Montreal, active To be quite accurate in Eastern Canada Home Missionary Society.