

OUR CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

AMHERSTBURG, May 30, 1872.

FROM WINDSOR TO AMHERSTBURG.

One of the most lovely river trips in this section of Her Majesty's Dominion is that between Windsor and Amherstburg. Crossing over from Windsor to Detroit by ferry you take a boat—the "Dove"—from the latter place, and, once started, you soon find yourself skirting, both sides, a lovely country. The old town of Sandwich, buried at some points, within groves of beautiful trees presents a picturesque appearance, while on the American side may be seen a number of elegant suburban residences, Fort Wayne, and other prominent features of a great and bustling city. Ascending the Detroit, or the Straits, as the term implies, you reach Wyandotte a town of most rapid growth. There are a number of rolling and smelting Mills, of which we shall speak hereafter, pouring forth from dozens of chimnies clouds of smoke which blacken the atmosphere for miles around, and which suggest the thought that one has arrived in the region of the Black Country, in England, or at Pittsburg, the Birmingham of this North American Continent. After passing Upper and Lower Grosse Isle the steamer makes for

AMHERSTBURG.

There is a history connected with this town of about 2,500 inhabitants, to which reference may be briefly made. In the time of the American war—1810-14—it was a Garrison Town and a Provincial Naval Depot. Sixteen miles below the Elliott family residence was fought the Battle of Lake Erie, in which Commander Barclay showed so much British pluck and courage. It was here, too, that the celebrated Indian Chief, Tecumseh, marshalled his forces, attacked the enemy and put the Americans to flight. After a series of well-sustained battles, Tecumseh, unfortunately, was killed at the engagement on the Thames, 1814. In passing the Elliott estate a little stone structure was pointed out to us as having been once occupied by our noble ally. Amherstburg, although it cannot boast of being mounted on a rock, may, nevertheless, be considered as the "Gibraltar" of America. Immediately opposite is an island—Bois Blanc—between which and the Canadian mainland, passes the greater shipping trade of the Upper Lakes. From Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth, and other ports on Lakes Superior and Michigan, to Montreal, Ogdensburg, Buffalo, Erie, Toledo, Sandusky and Cleveland, there are numerous transportation lines in addition to ordinary shipping, and all this has to find an outlet to Lake Erie by means of what may be designated the Gut of the American Gibraltar. On the authority of a gentleman as conversant with European as he is with American affairs, we are informed that the tonnage passing Amherstburg and Bois Blanc to the seaboard via the Welland and the Erie Canals excels that passing the Straits of Gibraltar. Hundreds of tugs are in operation during the season, employed in towing the shipping up and down the Lakes, but the most expeditious and probably the best mode of transit is to propel vessels in strings of sixes and sevens, the propellers, at the same time being laden with freight. From Lake Huron to Lake Erie is a most circuitous route, and, for some time, it was thought that the Georgian Bay Canal was the only scheme that would satisfy, by reason of its being the nearest connecting link between the Upper and Lower Lakes, the commercial requirements of the country. It would seem, however, from the numerous railway schemes already in operation, that the Georgian Bay project is shelved, at least for the present. The Canada Southern will cross the Detroit River about a mile above Amherstburg. A ferry, similar to the Great Western at Windsor and the Grand Trunk at Fort Erie, will pass over to the Lower end of Stoney Island and draw-bridges will connect it with the island of Grosse Isle and the American Mainland, Amherstburg which has for some years been rather stationery than progressive will be beautified by this new enterprise. Amherstburg has a population strongly French and strongly Negro, and these two elements in addition to the misfortune of having once been a garrison town, have militated against its success. The churches are numerous; that belonging to the French Catholics being the land mark of the town and is especially fine. The country for agricultural purposes is excellent, wheat, corn, barley, oats, vegetables and fruits of all kinds, including peaches being produced in abundance. It possesses the finest stone quarry in the Province, and in response to American demand, something like 50,000 cords of wood are sold every year. There was once a public asylum here, superintended by Dr. Lauder. Under that gentleman's auspices a more imposing and

commodious structure has been erected by the Government, at London. A hundred or more old Greenwich Pensioners were sent out to this place by the British Government, and lands given them on condition of proper settlement. Eighteen years, however, have considerably reduced their numbers and the probability is that within ten years from now a Greenwich Pensioner in Amherstburg will be a curiosity. There are considerable pasture lands and extensive farms, one belonging to Fred, Elliott, Esq., comprising some 1,600 acres.

THE CHURCH.

The church people in Amherstburg are especially fortunate in having for their pastor so excellent and exemplary a clergyman as the Rev. T. C. Desbarres, a gentleman of a goodly descent. We visited the above church and found that an addition had been made of some 25 feet, and improvements effected, costing from \$1,800 to \$2,000. There is accommodation for about 200 worshippers, the seats, grained, are very comfortable and the church furniture thoroughly ecclesiastical and becoming. The church is placed due east and west, the chancel windows to be frosted and the side windows shaded. The Lectern and pulpit are exceedingly neat. There is a class room on the north, and a vestry on the south side of the chancel. Dr. Grasset, brother of Dean Grasset of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, left the church a lot some time ago, and we understand the church is endowed to the amount of \$300 a year. The singing is strictly congregational. There is an excellent Sunday School. The Rev. F. Mack was Rector of the Parish 38 years. We wish the Rev. T. C. Desbarres who did a good work for the Diocese of Huron when he travelled for some twenty months in creating what is now known as the Sustentation Fund, every success in his work.

AMERICAN PECULIARITIES.

To show that our American friends are as peculiar as they are generous, and sometimes as original as they are pushing in business we may relate the following:—An American, among many others of his class called Skedaddlers, having occasion to apply for the interment of a child in a burying ground in Canada, inquired of a sexton the charges which, being stated, he objected to, and mentioned that he "did not wish the services of a preacher;" on its being more fully explained that the charges were not for the services of the "preacher," (a Church of England Clergyman), but for the ground and privileges of interment, his reply was, "In that case I'll have the preacher," thus demonstrating that even on such a solemn occasion the 'Almighty Dollar' has a predominating influence. The above story was related to us by the "preacher" himself. Another circumstance which we ourselves witnessed will not be altogether inappropriate though it cannot by any means lay claim to being churchly. As our readers are well aware the Americans are an "Expectorating" people, and the following notice which appeared, printed and neatly framed, in the commodious cabin of the Dove, is a fine example of classical diction: "Gentlemen will deposit the superabundance of Salivary Secretions in the Expectorate Receptacle; Loafers will fire at the stove, carpet, and all objects of prominence within range." Could this possibly be improved on?

THE WYANDOTTE SILVER SMELTING WORKS.

The extraordinary yield of Silver Island, Lake Superior, last year, and the strong probability that the Shuniah mine will even exceed that in productiveness this year, has aroused the energies of both Canadians and Americans to an extent that will bring the claims of Lake Superior, as a rich mineral country, prominently before the capitalists of this Continent. The mine formerly belonged to a Montreal Company, but, from some reason or other, it changed hands, and is now the property of an American Company, of which Major Sibley is the manager. Down the Detroit river, on the Michigan side, about 10 miles from the city of Detroit, are the works of the Company. A good deal of watchfulness is exercised to keep mining speculators off the premises, and we experienced some difficulty in obtaining admission. The Works consist of three substantial buildings, 150 x 50, containing every convenience for the business in hand, and establishing pretty clearly the fact that already "paying grist" has been brought to the mill. We visited the chemical rooms, where specimens are subjected to a simple but, as it appeared to us, unerring analysis. The ore contains from 3 to 15 per cent. of pure silver; 130 tons have already arrived this season, and, at the time we write, we learn that a second consignment of 428 barrels, worth \$200,000, has reached the Works by the *Manitoba* and other steamers communicating with the Silver Island. We also learn that another shaft has been sunk 130 feet, and a belt of rich silver ore been exposed, 37 feet in length and 35 feet in width. The process of smelting is exceedingly complicated, for the metal (silver) is compounded so much with other minerals that, besides lead and iron there is an abundance of what is termed matt and slag. A seventy-five horse power low pressure engine, by means of shafts inserted here and there sets the whole machinery in motion; the engine

which has been recently patented, is said to be the most perfect but least complicated piece of machinery yet sent out by the City of Detroit. A Rotary blower for blasting and a tank for condensing purposes completes the apparatus in the engine department. In the Crushing Room the ore undergoes the first manipulating process. By means of ponderous mill stones it is ground until it looks little better than shales. The matt and slag are separated, and then remain compounds of iron and silver, and lead and silver. These, in their turn, have to be separated; they are charged and elevated to a second story, are placed in hot furnaces, and after passing through others called compelling and reverberatory, the iron has entirely disappeared, lead is less conspicuous, and silver more abundant. The refinery does its work, then the crucible and afterwards appears the pure metal in the shape of silver pills. There is an immense iron safe capable of holding five or six hundred tons of silver. One hundred and sixty hands, principally Germans are employed night and day, Sundays included, at \$2 75 per day of ten hours. The ore is brought down in barrels weighing from 600 to 550 lbs, and even in its worst state is worth from \$4,000 to \$4,500 a ton. Adjoining the silver-works is an immense rolling mill employing nearly 800 hundred hands. Here they make steel as well iron rails, because manufacturing a large number of boilers. The Agricultural Works, belonging to Yanalstyne and Zabriskie, employing about 80 hands, do an immense business in manufacturing agricultural implements. Another source of prosperity to Wyandotte is an Iron Clad Ship Yard. This, as also the Rolling Mill, is the property of Captain B. Ward, who, some years ago, amongst the poorest of the citizens of Detroit is now, at the age of 60, worth several millions dollars. In a month from now 500 hands will be employed in building Ironclads for the Lake service. There are two Ironclads on the stocks and the one recently launched 'The Queen of the Lakes,' has proved in every respect, a great success.

WHO SHALL BE BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED?

When a prisoner is pardoned and sent out from prison into society again, it is not because he has already proved himself a worthy citizen, but because he intends so to prove himself. The physician prescribes medicine, and the nurse kindly waits upon the sick man, for the very reason that he is sick, and desires to get well. He would not delay until he felt himself established in health before he applies for assistance, but applies at once to the proper means because he earnestly desires to get well again. The infant is watched over and tenderly cared for on the very account that he is helpless. The ignorant are taught for the very reason that they are ignorant. So sinners are pardoned and received into Christ's Church for the very reason that they are sinners, and not because they are good, or have any ability to serve God. The sick man is received into the hospital because he desires to be well again. The ignorant man is received into school because he desires to be taught. So sinners are received into Christ's Church because they desire to become holy, and are willing to follow Christ's direction. The Saviour receives them not because they are already good and worthy, but because they earnestly desire to become so, and are willing to make the necessary effort. If you have a real desire and intention to serve God, then your proper place is the Church of Christ—for it was established for just such persons as you are, sinners feeling their sinfulness and desiring to be made better. When sinners wait outside of the Church to become good before seeking admission, they act like sick men waiting outside of the hospital to get well before they enter, or like children waiting to become educated before going to school. If you acknowledge your spiritual needs, if you desire pardon and are willing to be renewed, if you have confidence in God's love and willingness to save you through Christ, then allow Him to receive you into His Church and number you among the saved. If you have the desire, the loving Saviour will give you the ability. Seeking for the blessings of His grace otherwise than according to His own appointment, may you not doubt the sincerity of your desire, and may you not be disappointed in your search.—*Gospel Messenger.*

Fear not if troubles come upon you; if the sun is gone down look up to the stars; if the earth is dark, keep your eye on heaven. With God's promise, a man or a child may be cheerful.