

a larger number than have been organized in Canada in forty years. That statement is unfair to the Congregationalists of the Dominion, and especially so to the brethren of Ontario, because it is but a part of the truth.

The writer of the present article has not been in the ministry forty years, but he has been in close connection with Congregationalism in Ontario and Quebec for thirty years, and therefore should know whereof he speaks.

First of all, the question may be asked, Why this rapid growth in Michigan, and lack of growth in Canada? The answer, to a considerable extent, is, Michigan was, and is, a well timbered region, and has attracted a large number of enterprising men principally from New England, whose first object was to convert her timber into money, and then her lands into farms.

Many of these men brought their New England Congregationalism with them, and were often the first on the ground, and being men of intelligence and piety, they gave a decidedly Congregational tone even to other churches. Hence it has been easier to establish our churches in Michigan, because of the large Congregational element that has come here to abide. In Ontario, those who have been attracted by her forests have been, with few exceptions, decidedly hostile to our principles; while those who settled upon her broad acres have been principally of other communions.

Then there has not been quite the same amount of denominational jealousy between rival churches. Or, perhaps, here the tables are turned, and because in many places Congregationalists are in the ascendancy in numbers and influence, the Presbyterian and Baptist elements have united with the Congregational Churches. This amalgamation *may* tend to breadth of view and largeness of heart, and it *may* lead to an indifference as to distinctive principles, that will be disastrous in its consequences; unless, by careful and Scriptural teaching, the churches be raised to a higher standard of intelligent piety. At present we fear that there is in many of these churches what Paul would call "wood, hay, stubble."

If these statements are true, Canadian Congregationalists will be able at once to see that no such fortuitous circumstances have been their portion. Yea, we would hazard the assertion, that had the brethren in Michigan had the same difficulties, and to the same extent, as their Canadian brethren have had, their churches would not be in their present prosperous condition, and there is strong probability they would have left the field to others.

How few have been the additions to the churches of the Dominion from the old country! And how many of those few who did come to remain, have felt it to be their duty to leave their brethren, not because they could not live in Canada, but because a variety of circumstances seemed to indicate that the path of duty was hitherwards!

We would say, all honour to those churches and pastors who have "endured hardness" in standing by their principles for conscience sake.

Another question of importance is, the character of the ministry that occupies the pulpits in these numerous churches. Like all new countries, the churches of Michigan have been obliged to accept the best that could be had under the circumstances.

But it is both difficult and dangerous to number Israel, and especially difficult to institute a comparison between the College graduate and the graduate from the plough, bench, or axe-handle. They are "*all honourable men*," every one of them. But where is the Congregationalist anywhere, that would prevent them from preaching the Gospel, if there were any evidence that they were called of God to do so?

The question is, Did God ever intend that all of these should be pastors of churches. Scripture and reason alike answer, No!

During the earlier years of the settlement of Michigan, College-trained men were not always to be found, and the young and feeble churches were glad to have the ministrations of some of the rough and ready men, who could talk, and who