

potato famine of 1848-9 brought him into contact with leading American Baptist ministers, and finally led to his removal to America.

In 1850 he and family emigrated thither and settled in Cascade, Iowa. Here he spent fourteen years of incessant labor. At the end of that time he removed to Dundas, and in 1867 to Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.

My purpose is not to write a biography, that has been done already, but simply a character sketch, from which young men of our day may learn some useful lessons. No one can choose to be born of such an ancestry; few can be brought up in such scenes of rural calm and slumberous peace, and fewer still in this day can be born into as few educational advantages as he; but each one who has had such a lineage, who has had such a holy home training, and who is within reach of greater advantages, may stir himself up to make as good use of his exceptionally favorable privileges, as he did of his unusually unfavorable ones. Father Bates, as we loved to call him, had never been to college, or even a good village school, and yet he was a well educated man. It has been my privilege to roam over the large library which he left with his sons at his death, and I never saw one which gave such evidence of persistent, discriminating, thorough and extensive research. His clear, neat, almost microscopic notes are in almost every book; little scraps of paper, old envelopes, the margins of the pages, and the fly leaves are covered with the most apt notes, or the most searching criticisms. The notes scattered in these volumes are a second library, as well as a biography, of themselves. His head, heart and mouth were full of wisdom.

Father Bates was an eloquent man. A kind of eloquence not often heard. It was not the fiery torrent of the Irishman, nor the impassioned flow of the Scotchman, nor yet the rapid vehemence of the American. It was essentially English. It was the easy, flowing, and melodious bubbling up and falling upon the ear, of all kinds of figures of speech, quaint illustrations and happy quotations. He was a well read and a widely read man. He could never be taken off his guard. He was an all-round man. Home missions, French missions, edu-