

absence he returned, reporting that in the present "Emporium of Commerce," there then existed no prospect of success in that work to which they were devoted. He proceeded, therefore, downwards to the Bay Chaleur, where it is said, he laboured during three years with considerable encouragement, and that on his retirement from that post, he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Pigeon. What were the ultimate results of these labours, is not known, nor whether or not there are now the remnants of a church there.

Mr. Bentom took lodgings with a cooper who inhabited a small cottage, and there commenced proclaiming the gospel to a few who gathered in his room. Soon thereafter the little congregation removed to the house of Mr. Hadden, and their increasing numbers rendered it needful to occupy a larger space in the second story of a public house. Here the place became too strait for them, so as to induce the removal of first one partition and then another, until the entire area was opened. On this place becoming too small they removed to the Freemason's Hall, where they continued for a considerable time with a congregation of about 200 souls.

During the summer of 1801, Mr. Bentom regularly organized a Christian Church in accordance with ancient Apostolic order, about forty disciples thus uniting together in the fellowship of saints. He moreover obtained the usual register, and performed all the functions of the holy ministry. Acquiring considerable popularity and influence, being favoured with much success, he did not proceed many years without exciting jealousy and opposition. The arch-enemy can always find willing human instruments to oppose the truth, when his kingdom is successfully attacked. Mr. Bentom laboured as a Minister almost gratuitously, deriving the chief part of his support from his services to the public as a medical practitioner. Of course, his encroachment on their province was disliked by the medical faculty.

On applying for his register for the third year, he was refused in a manner far from courteous. As a consequence he was virtually prohibited from celebrating the nuptial ceremony, and administering the ordinance of baptism; nor was he permitted to officiate at funerals, the public grave-yard having been closed against him. It may be supposed that the sentiment expressed concerning him was, "these that turned the world upside down have come hither also," and the enemies of the truth were determined, if it were practicable, to expel it from Quebec. The treatment to which he was exposed being not only unchristian, but unquestionably illegal, was resented by Mr. Bentom, who, finding it impossible to get redress, determined to try the power of the press on his persecutors. He took a journey, therefore, to the United States, and there printed a pamphlet which he had written entitled "Law and Facts," designed to expose the great injustice he had suffered.

Copies of this pamphlet were soon circulated in Quebec, and the author, Mr. Bentom, was arrested and prosecuted for libel. The late Chief Justice Sewell, then Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the prosecution—but no advocate had independence enough to undertake the case of the defendant. Mr. Bentom, nothing daunted, argued his own cause. The trial, which was by special jury, lasted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and resulted in a verdict of guilty. The sentence was *six months' imprisonment* and a fine of *fifty pounds sterling*. For six months therefore was this good man shut up in prison, under cover of the law, in reality for the crime of non-conformity, though nominally for libel. Certain christian friends at Glasgow, Scotland, contributed and sent over the amount of the fine.