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LIFE IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS P. QUEBEC.

MR. EDITOR.—Under the above heading we purpose sending you an occasional letter. The publication of our first article from this region under the caption "From Newfoundland to the Province of Quebec," leads us to the conclusion that other communications may possibly be permitted to see the light. We have been exercising some degree of self-denial in the matter of contributing to your columns, thinking that you were unduly burdened with epistles on the debt of our missionary society and minister's deficiencies. Our sympathetic soul softened under the repeated "cries" of brethren connected with our eastern work. We felt afraid if we put our pen to paper that we might add to the harrowing nature of the joraniad; and thus instead of improving render the situation still more serious. We said to our grey goose quill, "that mighty instrument of little men," rest in the quietude of the desk until the tears of beloved brethren are dry, and their grief assuaged; then shalt thou emerge from thy retirement to do duty as in days gone by. Judging from recent issues of the WESLEYAN the time has come for the fulfillment of our promise, we therefore ask the indulgence of your readers.

THE WINTER.

Winter with us is unusually mild. The weather prophet of Montreal, Mr. Vennor, intimated through the "Montreal witness," in November, what kind of winter we were to have; and so far, he is undoubtedly a true prophet. The present state of things is just as he predicted. Our roads are nearly bare. Sleights have to be put aside; buggies are heard rattling by in all directions; while the industries of the Province, as regards lumbering and tanning, have received a serious check. A cold winter is a necessity in Canada. Without it the forests cannot be reached, and the thousands of men who prepare fire-wood, logs for saw-mills, and bark, are at a loss for employment, making the hard times decidedly harder. Business men as well as the operative classes in these eastern townships complain loudly. Money is tight, factories are shut-down or running half time, and slate-quarries are working at reduced wages. It was said at the recent meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade that this depression is caused, to some extent, by over-production, and to the want of a protective tariff for home productions, thus placing these Provinces on an unequal footing with the United States, whose manufactures are heavily protected. It may appear somewhat startling, but it is actually the fact, that slate can be imported from across the line and sold at a cheaper rate than it can be procured for from our own quarries. A Canadian does nothing by exporting slate to the United States, while Jonathan has it pretty much his own way when feeding the Canadian market. The present stagnancy is but temporary. With the opening of spring fairer prospects will present themselves. Just as nature by the circulation of her juices, the ploughing of her soil, the sowing of seed, will assume a revived aspect, so will certain instrumentalities lead to a quickening of manufacturing, agricultural and commercial life, to the advancement of the country and the joy of its people.

LECTURES, &c.

During the latter part of autumn, and about Christmas and New Year, lectures, concerts, and Sabbath-school, festivals were the order of the day in Richmond and Melbourne. The faculty of St. Francis' College decided upon a course of lectures. The first, on "The History and Structure of the English Language," was delivered by the editor of our Times newspaper; the second, on "The Great Rebellion," by our correspondent; and the third by an M. D. on "The British Constitution," &c. The

course has extended so far to six lectures (a live lord delivering one of the number) and still they come. The college authorities in past years mourned over small audiences; but during the present winter they have found it difficult to accommodate the people attending. In the matter of concerts the Episcopalians led off, followed by the Presbyterians, the Methodists bringing up the rear. Our concert was preceded by a tea, and a lecture by Rev. E. A. Ward of Danville, the whole being very successful. Our people say it was the finest Methodist entertainment ever given here. A professional lady, reader being in town at the time, we secured her services for two readings, which formed an attractive feature in the evening's programme. Proceeds towards purchasing additional furniture for the parsonage.

THE CIRCUIT—MELBOURNE.

Viewing our six months labor on this mission we have reason for encouragement. Melbourne is an old charge. It has been worked in the past by men of note, some of whom are now resting at eventide, their snowy heads crowned with honors; while others are in the van of the church's enterprises, their scholarship and eloquence being subjects of wide-spread recognition. We find in the registers such names as Bolland, Botterell, Bate, of the English Conference, and author of the "Cyclopedia of Illustrations," Mansford, and others. The station is not what it was, either financially or religiously. Heavy blows were struck years ago at our cause in Melbourne by a tribe of religious gipseys called Adventists, resulting in the secession of several families. They still visit the village seeking whom they may entice into fellowship with their nomadic line of life. Their converts of late cannot be reckoned by figures; they are represented by the millionth part of nothing. For the welfare of our race, the honor of the church, and the glory of Christ we earnestly pray, "so mote it be." We are favored with good congregations, and a growing interest, and are stimulated by the signs of the times to attempt a series of special services. Our missionary anniversary services are just concluded; collections at meetings all in advance of last year.

TEMPERANCE.

The temperance people here are agitating the passing by the Dominion Parliament of a prohibitory law. Recently an attempt was made to induce the Richmond County Council to adopt the Dunkin Act as the law of the county in the matter of the liquor traffic. A petition was presented and its claims urged by a deputation of temperance workers; but the Philistines were too strong; the petition was voted down, and the present state of things sustained. Dame Rumor says that two disciples of Esculapius, one mayor of a town some ten miles distant, and strongly opposed to making men sober by Act of Parliament, the other following the profession in Richmond, and a temperance advocate, had a most determined tilt over the issue. Their red-hot eloquence gushed like lava. The council room resounded with the pros and cons. Finally old father Time bade them run away, and live to fight another day. The Good Templars occasionally hold what is termed open temple, when addresses are delivered by resident clergymen, followed by music, readings, &c. The gatherings are interesting and help on the cause.

POPERY.

The public mind is largely occupied just now with the aggressions of Ultramontaniam. The members of the local government are tools in the hands of the priests; in fact, the Province is ruled by these servants of the Pope. Efforts are being made by the priests to flood the eastern townships with French Canadians, and thrust out the old country and Protestant Canadian population. Certain lands were recently set apart avowedly for Canadians returning from the United States; but really to secure them from Protestants, and even from Irish Catholics. None but French Canadians need apply, as was shown in the case of two men, who came across the frontier to settle on the lands. Their application was refused because they were not of the right stripe. The Irish Papists here are often disposed to rise against the freaks of priestly tyranny; they are a little too independent in their thinking; hence the lack of favor at head quarters; but the French, those whom the Papist

Bishop of Montreal terms his "very dear brethren," are the most abject slaves of Popery to be found in all the world. They willingly stir up the abominations of the system, sniff the miasma, and cry out, "Delightful!" The chief messenger of the legislative council has written to the editors of the Montreal "Witness," and Sherbrooke "Gazette," Protestant newspapers, that those publications are to be discontinued. A few days ago there was a lively time in Sherbrooke over the election of town councillors. The Papists threatened ugly work when a handful of Protestants cleared the town hall, and made them back down into the condition of curs after a whipping. There is a degree of sturdy manhood shown by our Protestant people most refreshing to witness. It is well such is the case; for the impression is general that a battle has to be fought in this province yet such as its history cannot parallel. The madness of the Romish hierarchy is bringing that conflict nearer every day.
G. FORSEY.
Melbourne, Jan. 1876.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRURO DISTRICT.

MR. EDITOR.—As the March Quarterly meetings are approaching, and as already notice has been given for the presentation of candidates for examination, I think it proper that attention should be called in official circles to the financial aspects of our work, and to the prospects and probabilities of support for young men, who may be recommended by our District meetings, to be received into our Ministry. So far as my own District is concerned, much as I desire that every circuit within the bounds of our Conference should have a minister, and that all our people should enjoy the regular ministrations of the sanctuary; yet I cannot see it my duty to encourage any young man in the expectation of being employed for the ensuing year, except in the event of an independent circuit, guaranteeing the full amount of a young man's claims. Of course we will make an exception in the case of any young man, or number of young men presenting themselves, with a view of obtaining the advantages of our Educational Institutions at Sackville.

In view of the present enormous deficiencies on dependent circuits, and the actual poverty of many of the circuits in these times of commercial depression—of which I think Mr. Editor, after all we have not heard too much, for why should we stifle discussion and thus hide the real aspect of things—I respectfully ask all candid men, if a system of rigid economy, and retrenchment in expenditure, should not be inaugurated at the next Conference? and if every Chairman of a District, and representative of a District, on the Stationing Committee, should not duly consider whether he has not come to this position for such a time as the present?

We have heard a great deal in some quarters about taking out all the young men available both at home and abroad, and trusting to the Lord for their support. But after all may we not have been rebuked by Divine Providence for undue haste in this matter? and for a zeal which is not according to knowledge. If this is not so—I am inclined to use the words of Samuel to Saul, "Then what meaneth this lowering of the oxen, and this bleating of the sheep, which I hear?" I might rather say this complaining of the shepherds. It is well with a people when there is no breaking in, when there is no complaining in our streets. Some have quite rebuked this complaining as savouring of murmuring against God; but it has been forgotten that this has been the cry of the "laborer," whom the Lord tells us "is worthy of his hire." Would we rebuke such a cry coming from a laborer in any other department of service? And shall we rebuke the complaint of the Gospel laborer whose hire has been kept back from year to year, by the church which engages to pay him what is just and equal, seeing he is "a servant of the church," and is engaged for a certain time, which the Master himself recognises as just—to do his work. We may boast as we will of our faith; but till we return to a principle of justice and equality, in the payment of the claims of our ministers—guaranteed to them by the highest authorities of our church, we cannot expect that peace and harmony—that confidence and brotherly love—and

that satisfaction in our work—which alone is the proof of God's approving smile and blessing upon the work of our hands. "Happy is the people that is in such a case." We have not this happiness at present, I am sorry to say. I pray God it may be steadily restored to us.

But this happy consummation so diligently to be wished, will depend upon our willingness or unwillingness faithfully to carry out the discipline of our church—to guard sacredly each others rights and privileges, and to see that the ministry is equally distributed and sustained. Then and then only shall all cause of heart-burning and complaint be removed from among us.

But what can be done to remove these complaints of which we have heard so much of late—I am glad to say with so much good feeling? This is a vital question. Something must be done. Will every member of the Conference take it into his serious and prayerful consideration. But after all it most concerns the official members—the Stationing and the Missionary Committees. Upon them mainly will devolve the duty of appointing ministers to the circuits, and of considering what probabilities there may be for their comfortable maintenance and support—a most important element connected with their responsibilities. I pray God we may all feel it so.

I venture to suggest some points that must come under consideration. 1st. As before intimated, our old Rule in relation to guaranteeing the full claims of young men that may be asked by any circuit—should be strictly acted upon this year. Let no circuit expect or ask for a young man which cannot guarantee his full support for at least four years. This may be thought to operate unjustly on such circuits as may ask for a young man, but are not able to pay but a part of his claim: as many young men have been, and will again be appointed to circuits, some of which, for the next fifty years or more must be a burden upon our funds; and then will probably not be able to support a married minister. We have quite ignored our Rule of late years. Have we acted wisely in so doing? Disguise it as we may, the support of all the young men we take out on these dependent circuits, must in part be taken out of the pockets of the married ministers who occupy dependent circuits; and their families must proportionally be stinted in their comforts in consequence. No! however the Rule may operate, we can ignore it no longer, without continuing the ground of complaint, and embarrassing ourselves still more. It may be relied upon that the grace and harmony of the Conference will depend upon our returning to this Rule, and all dependent circuits must see the necessity—not to say the justice of it—under present circumstances. It cannot be thought that ministers with large families, whose claims must be met to a larger extent than at present is the case—can bear such a tax upon their lawful claims any longer. I cannot but think that all our official Boards, and our people generally, will sustain the Committee if they refuse every candidate that may offer this year, rather than that any further diminution of men of families shall take place. This is one of the matters of complaint. I trust it will be considered in the spirit which its importance demands.

And it is equally just to our young men themselves. Entering our ministry they cannot support themselves respectably—purchase horses and equipments to work their circuits—and obtain such books as are necessary to render them workmen that need not be ashamed, unless their claims are met, during their probation. We are equally bound to provide for them as men of families. It is one of the conditions upon which they enter our ministry. We must place ourselves therefore in such a position that we may fulfil our part of the stipulations, and thus act in good faith with them, as well as with each other. We lay it down therefore as a principle of equity and justice, that we are bound to reimburse the funds placed at our disposal at our next Conference, and at the next meeting of our Missionary Committee, as to meet as far as they will go, the just claims of all the men in the active work. And that we will no longer put young men into the work this year, except in the case of an independent circuit guar-

anteeing his full support for four years, at least. Let us again have recourse to this Rule. It will surely help us to tide our present difficulties. Our fathers acted upon it, when these circuits were districts, and kept promising young men on the list of reserve, year after year, till they could guarantee their support. And in the comfort in which many of them passed away to their reward in the skies, and the work which they have transmitted to us, bear witness to their wisdom. Our only path of safety is to follow in their footsteps.

And, I trust we shall duly consider, at the next Conference, the necessity of economy in respect to removal expenses. This is a very serious matter, and has not tended in a little to our present difficulties. I feel almost ashamed that our people should know the enormous sum, not at all unreasonable under the circumstances, which, at the last meeting of the Missionary Committee, we had to deduct from the amount granted by the Central Committee, to our Conference, for removal expenses alone, before we could proceed to apportion the grants to the different circuits: as the removal expenses had to be met in full. Some removals on account of distance, difficulty of transport, considerably exceeded \$100 per family, and yet the brethren complained of loss. The aggregate sum was given by one of your correspondents. It was \$1334.89. But will we not learn a lesson from the past, to teach us wisdom for the future. If but \$100 could have been saved from this sum, for distribution to the poorer circuits, in these stringent times, it would have been deemed a boon. May we not next year, by a due regard for economy—say by shorter and less frequent removals, save for distribution several hundred dollars. Of course, Mr. Editor, I am not reflecting upon the past, but I am simply speaking of the possibility of improvement in the future. Better to keep some men four years on a circuit—when all are satisfied—than make so many hearts sad, by taking so much money for the poorer circuits, for expenses of removal. Indeed, may not these excessive expenses for removal, from year to year, endanger our financial system itself? Or, may they not bring about more serious evils than we so unparadoxically depreciated by our strict adherence to three years appointments. I approve cordially of the act of the Conference in this respect; and if we must abide by our rules, let us at all events use economy; and have as few removals as possible each year; better that a few men and a few circuits, for a brief period be dissatisfied, than the general dissatisfaction, so strongly expressed of late. Again if removals be necessary ought we not to cut our garments according to the cloth? Brethren, we cannot afford to pay \$1335.89 to rich men and shipowners and coachdrivers; we cannot want the money to purchase food and clothing for our children. It is time we began to pause, at least, and reflect upon the ultimate consequences of our action. Retrenchment is absolutely necessary, we cannot, we must not with our limited resources, grow at this rate. Our people themselves see and confess the absolute necessities of the case, and we may be assured, they will sustain us, in less frequent and shorter removals; when they see by economy we are seeking the general good. I know that circumstances are stern cases; but we ought to look steadily in this direction.

3rd. I have not time to ask whether retrenchment may not be needed in relation to the items of house rent, and horse expense, &c. But if our circuits could save any thing here, it would be a proportionate blessing. It is a matter for consideration with circuit officials, as one of whom are than may be absolutely necessary, at the expense of our funds. In all cases where it is possible or practicable this matter ought to be considered and arranged before the meeting of the Conference.

But, Mr. Editor, we have already occupied too much space. Yet the importance of the subject demands grave consideration. I am sure every deeply thoughtful man called upon, and will be required at our next Conference, to harmonize differences of opinion, and feeling on these and kindred subjects; and to revive as far as in us lies all just causes of controversy and complaint. It may be well to leave these matters before us to look at them in all their bearings; that we may enter upon our duties intelligently, and with a view to the peace and comfort of those for whom we act; and above all with a view to the glory of Him who is the head over all things to His body which is the Church, to Him be glory in the Church throughout all ages. Amen.
B. B. Tuttle.
G. W. TUTTLE