

fruit in the abounding labours of many men of God now in the pastorate, and throws a hopeful aspect on the future, by promising, under God, to prepare many labourers for the gospel harvest field. That our venerated brother may long live to see the growth of Canada, in her temporal and spiritual interests, is our fervent prayer.

The likeness is pronounced by all who have seen it to be admirable. We feel therefore considerable satisfaction in this initiation of a new feature in our periodical literature: and heartily wish, as the kindly face of Dr. Lillie is glanced at in many homes, that by the blessing of God, "a happy new year" may be enjoyed in every house we are privileged to visit.

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### PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

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John the Baptist, was the Lord's messenger and forerunner, having this commission to prepare his way. The great theme of his teaching was, "The Lord is coming, prepare ye his way." It appears, then, that there is such a thing for man to do, as to prepare the way of the Lord, and to make his paths straight. Men may work hard and persistently at the engineering, grading, and other operations described in the prophecy—"Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways shall be made smooth." This is the process required in opening up railways through a country, as it was, in the olden time, the process which prepared the way for an advancing army; and as men may work at the physical, so may they toil successfully in the spiritual—they may make ready the way of the Lord, that "all flesh may see the salvation of God."

The voice from the wilderness was heard! Many came to John repenting, and were baptized by him in Jordan. The Lord's way was further prepared, until, in the first century, many nations saw the salvation of God.

Is there no voice from the wilderness heard crying to us, "prepare ye the way of the Lord?" What mean these tidings from far off lands, with which we are so intimately associated? Is there no utterance coming across the ocean from Ireland—from the midst of the revival there—saying to us, "prepare ye the way of the Lord?" What voice is that from Glasgow, Inverness, and other parts of Scotland? What from England and Wales? Hear we not words, as the sound of many waters, and of mighty thunderings, saying to us, "prepare ye the way of the Lord?" Sweden, too, from the Court of her monarch, from the halls of her nobles, and from the cottages of her peasantry, where, it is supposed, there are 200,000 newly converted souls—cries encouragingly from her northern shores to us, "prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Do we ask, "what is the way of the Lord?" The psalmist answers in his prayer, "that thy way may be known on earth, thy saving health among all nations." It is the path of an accomplished and infallible physician, among the diseased and dying, whom he succours with present relief, and restores to health. It is the chariot path of a mighty monarch among rebel subjects, whose hearts he wins, whose treason he pardons, and whose loving allegiance he secures. It is the path of a gracious deliverer among the imprisoned and condemned, with pardons in his hand, and everlasting life in his gift. When Jesus commissioned his