

MATERIALS FOR OUR CHURCH HISTORY.

At length, we are enabled to print the first of a series of papers, in which we hope to furnish accounts of the early days of Congregationalism in all parts of British North America. We do not promise what may be properly called a history of the churches and missions of the body. All that we aspire to at present, is, to prepare *materials*, which may be woven into a more systematic form by some future writer. One advantage of this method will be, that we can use the detached sketches of various writers who may have special information concerning different parts of the field. We once more urge upon the fathers and founders, lay as well as clerical, the *duty* of preserving from oblivion the interesting and valuable recollections which would otherwise die with them. The several Associations have been already requested to see to it, that competent writers engage in this work, within their respective spheres; but we also invite individual co-operation in the work.

We have already in hand a most interesting outline of the history, extending through a hundred years, of the Church at Chebogue, Nova Scotia, prepared by our historical contributor, Mr. James Woodrow, and one of a Canadian Church, by a writer nearer at hand. But, for several reasons, we begin our series of narratives with a paper on Quebec, the first part of which was prepared by Rev. Dr. Wilkes, for the *Harbinger*, a monthly magazine conducted by Rev. Dr. Carruthers, pastor of Gosford Street Congregational Church, Montreal, which lived for two years, viz., 1842 and '43, and from whose pages may be gleaned many an interesting item concerning "old times." But one other connected sketch of this character, however, appears there—of the Church at Stanstead, C.E., which also we purpose to republish.

We are much pleased to present the story of the Church at Quebec, as now completed by the same hand which began it a quarter of a century ago. It will be read with interest wherever the Magazine finds its way. The younger members of the body, who have inherited the religious liberties for which the fathers suffered, ought to know at what a price their own freedom was obtained. Nor must it be forgotten, that the disgraceful restrictions formerly existing were imposed and enforced, not by French-Canadian Catholics, but by the English High Church and Tory party, who then had everything their own way. A similar spirit animated the same party in Upper Canada. Yet in each Province, especially in the Western, there were liberal Churchmen who aided the so-called "Dissenting" bodies in obtaining their rights. We trust that we shall be able to secure for these pages a full record of the long and hard battles for religious equality.

 QUEBEC, 17— to 1866.

BY THE REV. HENRY WILKES, D.D.

It would appear from the information derived from several competent sources, that prior to the year 1800 a few religious soldiers stationed at Quebec applied to the London Missionary Society for a Minister of the Gospel to labour in that city. The call was responded to by that society, and two were sent out in that year; namely the Rev. Messrs. Bentom and Mitchell. On their arrival at Quebec, they found that the regiment had been removed, so that the applicants were no longer in that city, and they further found that with little to encourage, there existed very much to discourage their efforts. Mr. Mitchell proceeded to Montreal, whence, after a few weeks