

MINNESOTA LETTER.

St. Vincent, Minnesota, August 2, 1879.

Mr. Editor.—Nearly three months have passed since I saw you at Moncton; no doubt you have wondered why I have not written you before. In the first place, it seemed to me as if I could not gather sufficient news to communicate, in reference to this far-off land. We were detained a great deal at first, in trying to secure lands. I should speak of my trip to the North-west; the scenes of water, hill, valley, the level prairie, and the majestic mountains, the pretty little villages, the large cities, the small, but neat, cottages, and the palatial residences. The conductors of the trains sometimes allowed us to ride on top of the cars. In this way we had a good opportunity of seeing the country, as we journeyed along. I need not speak of the different places we passed through. I was struck with the appearance of Chicago, the city which, only a few years ago, was in ruins, and is now one of the finest cities in America. It is full of life and bustle, and is the grand centre of the Western States. St. Paul, too, though not so large, is yet a real live and busy place. For my part, however, I like Montreal as well as any city that I passed through.

I have often wished to see the great Metropolitan Methodist Church, and now an opportunity was offered, as we stayed a few hours in Toronto. It came fully up to my anticipations. The grounds surrounding it are beautiful. The sexton, who is a very obliging person, took us through the church, and gave us some very interesting particulars of its construction. It is an ornament to the city, and an honour to the Methodist connexion. But, Mr. Editor, as you have seen all these things, I will not tire you by referring to them any further; but will try to give you some idea of the prospects of this great North-west country.

After a trip of over ten days, we arrived at Winnipeg. It first sight it appears to be a strange place. Lumber is so high that the people make the most of it, and put up some very odd looking buildings, although some of the buildings are very fine ones. Stone in this country is a very scarce article, and foundations consist mostly of driven logs, or piles. Winnipeg appears to me to be built on a very low site, and is rather damp and wet, especially after a rain. But as soon as they can get good crossings and side walks it will be greatly improved.

It is wonderful to see how fast this city is growing. It will be a second Chicago in a few years, if it continues to grow as it does now. In this city you see people of all nationalities. Europeans and their descendants, half breeds, and the wild-looking Indian, with his painted face, and whose hair is plaited with the fur of some wild beast. His dress consists of coats and garments of many colours, according to rank. The timid people of the Lower Provinces, I think, would rather these wild-looking men would stay in their far-off homes in the North-west. These men are pleased with very little things. I will refer to one incident which came under my own notice. A few of these men pitched their camp in our vicinity, and I gave two of them a box of matches, those enclosed in paper packages. Their countenance wore a pleasant smile of surprise, as they took match by match out and lighted it, just like a little child might have played with a toy. Such was one of the characteristics of these aborigines. Fond of any little thing, especially if it be bright or shining.

From Winnipeg we went to Emerson. Here Mr. McKechnie, who has been our travelling companion from the Island, purchased a section of land from the Hudson Bay Company. It is as good land as could possibly be got. A section contains 640 acres, and will make a good farm; and as he has three hearty, strong, and willing sons to help him work it, there can be little fear but that he will make a good thing out of it. In fact, it is already stated by some that his land will be worth three times as much as it is now in a few years. So you see a little money well expended in this country is a good investment. But those who have not the means to purchase, have to look out for free land. For this purpose I called at the Land office at Emerson; the agent, a rather independent sort of person did not seem to know of any lands available, and said I had better go and look for some. After having made some inquiries, I found that most of the Islanders had gone to a place in Minnesota, United States, about seven miles from Emerson. I made up my mind to see if it were possible to secure a free grant. The agents on the American side, all alive to the importance of getting as many of these as possible, good land for me; and here I am, an American. I found the people very kind. I am within six miles of a fast rising town called St. Vincent. You can purchase dry goods and groceries in St. Vincent at as low a figure, if not lower, than can be procured in any of the towns of the Lower Pro-

If, at any time, you should have any articles in the Wesleyan on the North-west, I should say, be very careful how you advise young men about leaving home. If they have good places, with anything like good prospects, I say, don't go West. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. But if there are men in the over-crowded cities and towns, who find they are barely making a living, striving from day to day, and find nothing laid up for the winter of old age, I say to such, go to the great North-west. Don't think that, because I have chosen the land I have, that there is none in Manitoba, for there is a large quantity of land that is not yet taken up, but which is a long distance from either church, school, or market. Some persons have gone a long way, and are well pleased with their farms.

A great deal has been said in reference to the quality of the soil. I have just been ploughing some of mine, and it is as mellow as the very richest garden earth. A few days ago I thought I would try what the soil and climate would do, and put in a few potatoes, and now they are up some two inches. The other day a neighbour was at my place, and I gave him a few beans to plant, and they are up, and look well. All the land is not as good as this, but some of the farms, or sections, are very wet, and not fit for cultivation, except it be for the natural hay, which grows in abundance. The great drawback to the prairie lands is the scarcity of wood. We will have to haul ours some six or eight miles. This is done in the winter, and as the snow only falls about six inches in depth, it is considered easy hauling.

Water is not as good here as in the East. There are no springs. Wells are dug eight, ten, and some twelve feet deep. I have the good fortune of having some good water. I have seen men drinking water from ditches near the railway track. You can easily imagine what state it would be in, exposed to the sun for weeks, and no outlet. This of course only refers to persons traveling in localities where there are no houses. Some seem to think that if they went down fifty feet they would find springs; but from the appearance of the soil I am afraid that such cannot be the case.

I wish you could travel on the railroads in this country. It would put you in mind of a boat on a river or a harbour with, what the sailors call, a heavy swell on. They rock from one side to the other, until you begin to think that the cars cannot hold out any longer. But when you know that they do not travel much faster than a good horse can trot, there is not much fear. The country is so level that the sleepers are laid down without any ballast. And sometimes, when it is not you can see one sleeper some four or six inches lower than the others. This, I am glad to say, is not to be continued much longer, as already the ballast cars are all the time putting gravel on the road, which they get from a place they call the Ridge.

Since I spoke of the growth of potatoes, a neighbour came in, and says that he has potatoes the size of an egg, from seed planted a month ago. There are some very fine ones in market just now.

I often have to think of how hard the farmers have to toil in Prince Edward Island, that they may get hay for feed and sale. We have only to go a few yards from our house, and cut just as much as we require for our cattle for the whole season, and then sell quite a large quantity besides. I have seen the hay over four feet high. The cattle are very fond of the prairie grass. After we plough from six in the morning till about nine, the oxen get two hours rest, and the only feed is the grass. They rest again in the afternoon, and feed again on the grass. So you see it is a great advantage to have oxen, as they save a great deal in fodder. For horses cannot work hard without grain, and for this reason a large portion of the people have oxen. For my part, if I had enough grain I should have horses. For no matter how good your oxen may be, they will very often run out of the furrow, and you require a good temper or plenty of patience to keep from beating them; and a man who is in the habit of swearing (there are, I am sorry to say, too many of this class in this country), would be strongly tempted to swear at them.

I must not forget to speak of our famous mosquitoes. I have often heard of the numbers of them, and how troublesome they were; but I never could have imagined that they would have been so numerous as we find them here. I think, while driving the oxen from St. Vincent home, that I must have killed over a thousand. But they would still come as thick as ever. The air was full of them. I flourished my whip in the air, and could feel it strike them; yet they would get on my hands and face, and bite till my patience was pretty thoroughly tried. In fact, they are so annoying, that one young man determined to sell out and go home. But he has since changed his mind. It is said that they will disappear in August, and we are therefore hoping for better

things. The people think they will not trouble us after the land is ploughed. In the towns and villages there are very few of them. And these are very often taken there by parties from the country. You will hardly believe that one of these small creatures could bite or sting you through a coat, but such is a fact. I have again and again been bitten through quite a stout pair of pants and a pretty thick coat. You may ask in what way we keep them out of our houses? and in what way we keep them from our faces? To keep them out of our houses, we set fire to some hay, and place it by the door, and the smoke drives them away. The face is protected by wearing a net, attached to the hat, which covers the face and neck. This net is also made into inside doors and windows, to let the air in. And in this way we can keep these intruders at a respectable distance. They are not troublesome when the sun is out bright and warm, but only in the morning and evening.

I have often heard it said that it was hard to plough the prairie soil, but I think it by no means difficult. The last week I have been trying my hand at it, for the first time in my life, and have turned over quite a number of acres, and that it very easy work compared with what I had expected. A pair of good oxen will turn over one and a quarter acres per day. Horses will turn over from one and a half to two acres.

I remember hearing the Rev. Dr. Taylor describing the beauties of the North-west, and referring to the flowers, he said how very pretty they were. This, certainly, is the case. Flowers which would be considered very fine and pretty in our gardens, in the East, grow wild on the prairie. In the morning to go out in the grass, and see flowers of different shades, in patches every here and there, I can assure you is a fine sight. Often do we pluck a very pretty bouquet for the table from these wild flowers, which God in His wise providence has given to the lonely farmers of the Far West.

It may be asked what are the prospects of the people of this country in the future? Some have said that they would not get a price for their wheat, etc. But this, I think, is a mistaken idea. Some here say that the prices will still be higher, even than they are at present. They will pay the farmer well, considering the little trouble he has in cultivating the soil, compared with the people throughout Canada.

Let I should like to see you by writing too long a letter this time, I shall wait until a future letter to speak of the results of the spring labours here.

I remain your friend,
CHARLES FULL.

PASTORAL ADDRESS.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE CONFERENCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Dear Beloved Brethren:

We greet you again in the name of "Him through whom we both have access by one spirit unto the Father." Yearly we meet to review our progress as a branch of Christ's Church; to consult as to the duties of the present time; to take solemn cognizance of all that concerns our piety and efficiency as ministers; and our relationship to you as members of the "flock of God."

Our Annual Assembly has been largely distinguished by harmony of sentiment, and depth of fraternal affection. The presence of our adorable Master has been constantly with us. We are encouraged to expect both for ourselves and you a year of blessing.

In review of the past year we find many things which call for devout thanksgiving to Almighty God. The word preached has been profitable, being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Although a larger number than usual has been removed from our congregations by emigration westward, yet we are thankful to record an increase of mem-

bers. Brethren permit us to remind you that not only on the ministers, but also on the members of the church devolves the responsibility of caring for those who are inexperienced in the christian life. Each member of the church is in some sort "his brother's keeper." Upon each his obligation which is implied in the Apostolic Admonition addressed to the Thessalonians "comfort yourselves together and edify one another; comfort the feeble-minded; support the weak." Take heed that you offend not one of these little ones, and beware lest from a failure on your part any weak brother perish, for whom Christ died.

We are happy to note that our Sabbath-schools are increasing in number and efficiency. Too much importance cannot be attached to this department of the work of the church. We would encourage the officers and teachers of our Sabbath-schools to cherish a lively expectation that spiritual results will attend their labors. To the junior scholars we would earnestly direct special attention, and we would urge upon all our friends the great importance of using every means to bring them to God. It has often happened that important revivals have begun among the children of the schools. May it be so in many places this year! You will join with us, dear brethren, in renewed practical sympathy with our Missionary Society and in increasing prayer for its continual success. The Methodist Church has been and still is eminently missionary in its character. The missionary work, among the pioneers of the continent especially, has been committed to it in the providence of God. The Methodist Church of Canada has been endeavoring to prove itself worthy of the vocation to which it has been called; and its missionaries are now successfully telling not

only in all parts of British America, but also in Japan. In every part of this extended field the word has proved the power of God to the salvation of many souls. In the anxiety of the Missionary Committee, to meet the requirements of the work, and not prove recreant to the trust reposed, there has been incurred a debt of \$60,000. The debt has been the subject of serious and prayerful consideration, and it is our duty to call your attention to a scheme which contemplates its removal and the further vigorous prosecution of our work. This scheme was submitted to the Conference by two esteemed brethren, the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, General Missionary Secretary, and the Rev. John Shaw, President of the Toronto Conference, whose visit and ministrations will long be gratefully remembered. In this undertaking, brethren, we as a Conference have entered in the fear of God, and we confidently bespeak your hearty sympathy and co-operation.

Our educational institutions at Sackville continue to enjoy public confidence, and to prosecute successfully their important work. In those cases when sons and daughters have to leave the parental roof for purposes of education, let us implore you to be careful in the selection of the Institution to which you send them.

No amount of refinement or literary accomplishment can compensate for the loss of religious impressions. As our institutions afford educational advantages unsurpassed in the Lower Provinces, for the youth of both sexes, we commend them to your thoughtful regard.

The dissemination of a sound religious literature we consider to be a legitimate part of our work as a church. Some changes have been made in the management of our Book Room, and connexional paper. The Rev. Dr. Pickard, who formerly successfully conducted both departments of the work, has been appointed Book Steward; and the Rev. D. D. Currie, one of our most honored ministers, has been appointed Editor of the Wesleyan. This division of labor will, we are confident, make our Book-Room and Paper more worthy than ever of your liberal support.

Since we last met in Conference, one of our beloved fathers in the ministry, Rev. Geo. M. Barratt, has entered into rest, but his steadfast young men have been ordained to the full work of the christian ministry.

And now brethren, suffer the word of exhortation. Be assured it is not mere formality when year by year we urge upon you the maintenance of personal piety. This is your life. The absence of spiritual religion in the churches is death. The mere addition of members, or the perfunctory discharge of duty cannot keep christianity alive. There must be the actual indwelling of the Holy Ghost. We exhort you to cultivate personal holiness not only for the sake of your own peace and joy, but also that you may be made a blessing to others. Your immediate circle of friendship will feel the influence of your deep-living piety, while the cause of God will receive an impulse the force of which will be realized by the surrounding population. Let us remind you that this will be promoted by a diligent use of the means of grace. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." See to it that your place in the sanctuary shall never be vacant when it is possible to be there. Be found regularly at the sacramental table. It is not a matter of option or caprice whether you commence or not. The command is most solemn and obligatory. Do this in remembrance of Me. Be diligent in the use of your weekly meetings for fellowship and prayer. A high estimate of the class meeting distinguished the early Methodists, and it will be a dark day when the institution is regarded among us as but a relic of the past. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." And, do not let your church that is in your house. Some of you are parents. We ask you to consider your weighty responsibilities. In the sacrament of baptism claim for your children the Saviour's promised grace. Give to your little ones not only a christian example but an early religious training. You cannot devolve your obligation upon either the pulpit or the desk.

Finally, brethren, we bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Signed on behalf and by order of the Conference.

H. McKewen, President.
FRED'K. W. HARRISON, Secretary.
CHARLOTTETOWN, July 2nd, 1879.

A SUCCESSFUL BOY.

Dr. John Hall, of New York, recently told the boys at one of the lodging houses the following story:

John Brady, twelve years ago, was at Blackwell's Island, a street vagrant, sleeping under carts, on door-steps, or any where he could find a place to keep from freezing. From here he was sent West, on a farm. Here he was sent books, and when he had served his time out he wrote to the President of Yale College, asking if he could work to pay his tuition. He was appointed bell-ringer there. He was so brilliant that when he graduated friends offered to pay his expenses through the theological seminary. He has thus graduated with the highest honours, and goes as missionary to the Esquimaux in Alaska. "There's a success in life for you, boys!" said Dr. Hall, and so there is for every boy who has energy and a noble purpose.

From James Cochran, Esq., Patentee of Cochran's Patent Spinning Wheel. Church St., Cornwallis, N.S., February 27, 1879.

My brother had for more than eighteen months suffered with distressing cough. One side of his breast had shrunk or fallen in, his strength was fast failing and was to all appearance fargone in Consumption, when he commenced the use of Graham's Pain Eradicator under the pro- prietor's direction. The result of its use was most satisfactory and the cure rapid. He has remained in the enjoyment of good health since using this medicine more than fifteen years ago. We have many times since then proven its efficacy in other forms of disease and pain, and have reason to believe that it has no equal.

JAMES COCHRAN.

Herring Cove, Halifax, N.S., May 24, 1879.

I had for nearly two years suffered severely with pain in my breast and side, resulting from severe cough that was supposed to be Consumption. For a long time I had a lump in the lower part of my right side, which increased in size and painfulness until one night my sufferings were so great that it was feared that I could not live until morning, when Graham's Pain Eradicator was tried both internally and externally, it gave immediate relief, and completely reduced the swelling or lump and drove it all away. For pains in the breast and side as well as for other forms of pain I have never seen its equal.

MICHAEL DELUCHEEY

VEGETINE.

HER OWN WORDS.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 8, 1878.
Mr. H. R. STEVENS:—Dear Sir—Since several years I have got a very painful foot. I had some physicians, but they could not cure me. Now I have bought of your Vegetine from a lady who was cured for a long time, and secured all well from your Vegetine, and I bought one bottle, and after I had used it, I bought another bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a third bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a fourth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a fifth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a sixth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a seventh bottle, and after I had used it, I bought an eighth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a ninth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a tenth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought an eleventh bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a twelfth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a thirteenth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a fourteenth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a fifteenth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a sixteenth bottle, and after I had used it, I bought a seventeenth bottle, and after I had used 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