

# THE HARBINGER,

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.

In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—*St. Paul.*

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CONTENTS.—Historical Notices of Churches, No. 2, Stanstead—Western Canada, Journal of a Missionary Tour—Letter from the Rev. J. Roaf—Rev. A. Lillie, to the Editor of "The Church"—Christian Principles—Eusebia—Voluntary Church Principle—Religious Intelligence, Canada, Madame Feller and the Canada Mission—Great Britain, Church of Scotland—Revival of Religion at Oban—Colonial Missionary Society—Religious Freedom in Europe—Romanism in America—Christian Missions, The Great Commission—Missionary Intelligence, Raratonga—Ecclesiastical Statistics—Poetry, The Traveller and Opportunity, Psalm CVII. 7.

## HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF CANADA.

NO. II.

### STANSTEAD.

The adoption, as far as practicable, of chronological order in these notices, brings before us the Church at Stanstead next to that of Quebec. Stanstead, as most of our readers are aware, is a Township immediately bordering on the State of Vermont. The outer portions of the Township are so hilly as almost to justify the appellation mountainous, except on the border, or, as it is usually termed, "the lines;" but the inner portion consists of a highly fertile plain, on part of which the village has been laid out. There are few sections of the country so beautiful as Stanstead, whether the character of the scenery, the fertility of the soil, or the beauty of the farms, houses, &c. be taken into view. Some of these were probably the causes of its early settlement. American enterprise and taste are not to be restrained within the imaginary line 45°; nor did the terrors which it is sometimes supposed they feel in regard to monarchical institutions, interpose as a barrier betwixt them and this lovely land: onward they came, and the result has been the formation of settlements of great beauty and wealth.

The Congregational Church of Stanstead was organized by the Rev. Messrs. Wright, Leland, and Parker, in the year 1816. Twelve members formed the original nucleus, who agreed to walk together in the fellowship of the gospel, in conformity with the only sure

directory, the New Testament. In the course of the following summer, they united with persons connected with other denominations in the erection of a place of worship, which still stands a mile or so from the village, and is called the "Union Church." From its size, it would appear that its projectors anticipated a very large congregation. The notes from which we glean these particulars mention that it was solemnly dedicated to the Triune Jehovah in the autumn of 1817, the Rev. J. Reid officiating. Soon after this date, the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood commenced his labours amongst the people, and continued them two years; but whether as the Pastor of the Congregational Church or as Minister of the Union building, does not appear. The impression of the writer is that he was the Pastor of that Church. Mr. Osgood, at this comparatively early period of his career, indicated his conviction of the importance of Sabbath Schools by forming one at Stanstead in 1818, which has been perpetuated until the present time, and now contains, in average attendance, from forty to fifty scholars. Under the ministry of our now venerable friend, the congregation was much enlarged, and there were many additions to the Church, of such, as it was hoped, were amongst "the saved."

Soon after the close of Mr. Osgood's Ministry, the Episcopal Church sent a supply for the pulpit of the Union Church, who continued a year; his name was Nagg. On his leaving, there was a vacancy for a long period, until at length the people applied to the Wes-