

Monthly Messenger.

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NEW SERIES. VOL. V. No. 11.

NOVEMBER, 1878.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE EDITOR ON HIS TRAVELS.

No. III.

I left Boston with reluctance and regret. It was hard to bid adieu to kind friends, to art galleries, the Congregational house, and especially the book room. In a few hours I was in North Adams, passing through the wonderful Hoosack Tunnel, over five miles in length. I spent a few hours pleasantly at the princely dwelling of the Messrs. Cady Brothers. Embarking in a railway sleeping car, I slept till near the Suspension Bridge at Niagara. I spent a few hours examining the famous Falls. Certainly all that has been said or written of them comes far short of conveying to the mind any correct idea of their greatness. My next resting place was London, Ont., the finest city of the West. Here the Congregational Union of Canada was to meet on the morrow. I was the guest of a good Presbyterian elder, Mr. McIntosh, who with his amiable family contrived to make my visit most agreeable. I was about the first arrival to the meetings, and the last to leave. It was quite homely to be taken to see London Bridge, and Westminster, and Pall Mall, and the Thames, etc. The city covers an immense area; the present population is about 25,000, but when all that is laid out is built upon, it will be a formidable rival to its namesake beyond the pond. I cannot say half enough in praise of the London people; we were feted and honoured in all quarters. But the main work in London was in connection with the Congregational Union. To me it was a rare treat to meet with so many brethren from different parts of the continent: they were there from the United States, from the far East, from the shores of the Bay of Fundy, venerable fathers of the churches, grave professors from the college, young men just girding on the spiritual armour, students from the University, and our good friends the deacons and lay representatives. We had a cordial greeting from the London Church through its able pastor, the Rev. Mr. Wallace, the chairman's address, papers on important subjects, sermons by the Rev. Mr. Brown and the venerable Dr. Wilkes. We had public meetings, and animated discussions on various denominational matters, on church discipline, polity, doctrine, missions, finances, etc., etc. A morn-

ing prayer meeting every day, which was the best of all. The Union concluded with a communion service, which was a time of power from on High and of blessing which will not soon be forgotten. The Congregational ministers of Canada are second to no other men in point of education, earnestness, and spiritual power. They have been too late in taking the field—other denominations are before them, hence they are labouring under serious disadvantages, nevertheless, they have done, and are doing, a good work, and yet there is a bright future before the denomination in the progressive and rising Dominion.

When the Union meetings terminated, I crossed Lake Erie to visit Oberlin College, Ohio. This famous institution was opened in 1833. In its early days it had to contend with much opposition in consequence of its anti-slavery attitude, etc., but it has surmounted all obstacles: present number of students, 1,200. I have stated in my last on my travels, that I had a very pleasant time at an Alumni dinner in Boston, with an association of Oberlin students. Through the kindness of the Rev. F. Wright, of Andover, whom I met there, I was introduced to President Fairchild and the Faculty of Oberlin University: I was present on the day of the closing exercises of the session. Thirty-three students graduated in Arts on the occasion. I had the honour of making a speech at the Alumni dinner, and the pleasure of listening to a concert in the evening. Music forms a part of the regular education in Oberlin. About 200 well-trained students, four professional singers from Boston and New York, and an orchestra from Cleveland, performed Handel's "Messiah." There was an audience of about 2,000. Altogether I may safely say that I never heard anything better in the music line.

I visited the college buildings, the cemetery, and all the places of note in the beautiful little town; addressed congregations in the first and second Congregational churches, gathered valuable information regarding the late president Finney, whose evangelistic labours have been owned of God in the conversion of tens of thousands, both in England and America, and whose writings have done much to mould the thoughts and shape the lives of the rising ministry in America, and to whom I owe more myself than to any other