

especially in the Eastern portion, is largely owing to the energy and skill which he has devoted to it and which has brought its reward in that the firm of A. A. Ayer & Co. has come to be known as the largest exporters of these products in the world.

Besides the business above referred to he is connected with other large interests, is President of the Merchants' Manufacturing Company (St. Henri Cotton Mill), one of the successful industries of the country, and also President of the Laprairie Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company, and besides these he is actively connected with the Montreal Board of Trade and carries on extensive farming operations in the North-West.

It might well be supposed that these varied and extensive interests would be considered quite a sufficient reason for taking no part in what are in the best sense larger and higher things, but in these he has shown throughout the same energy, ability and capacity for hard work for which he has been so noted in business affairs. Converted at the age of seventeen, while at the New Hampton Institute, he was baptized in the spring of 1863, and became a member of the old church at Abbotts' Corner, probably the oldest Baptist church in Ontario or Quebec.

From that time, and especially after coming to Montreal, he has been closely identified with not only the various interests of the Baptist denomination, but with others such as the great Christian Endeavour Convention of 1893 at Montreal, of which he was Chairman of the General Committee.

He has been a member of the old Board of the Convention East, of which he was at different times appointed Treasurer and President respectively, and he has been on the Board of Governors of McMaster University from the opening of the University, besides being also on the Foreign Mission Board.

But perhaps the most important work with which he has been connected is the Grande Ligne Mission, of which he has been a Director for upwards of twenty years and of which, on the retirement of the Rev. Mr. Upham in 1891, he was elected President, which office he still holds, and to the work of which he devotes an immense amount of energy, thought and beneficence.

In 1867 he married Rebecca Carrie Hibbard, of whom it