

A SERMON,

Delivered at the Second Annual Meeting of the Canada Baptist Union, at Beamsville, Canada West, June 24, 1845. By the Rev. J. M. CRAMP, A. M., President of the Baptist College, Montreal.

"So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. And it came to pass that when our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes, they perceived that this work was wrought of our God."—*Nehemiah* vi. 15, 16.

The temple had been rebuilt, and solemnly dedicated to the worship of God. A considerable number of Jews had taken up their residence in Jerusalem, under the sanction of the Persian monarch, but had hitherto endured much vexation from the Samaritans and others, whose deadly enmity led them to employ all the means of vexation and annoyance in their power, and to seek the extermination of the restored tribes. Their efforts had so far succeeded, that when Nehemiah instituted inquiries respecting the state of his native land, he received information which deeply affected him. "The walls of Jerusalem were broken down, and the gates thereof burned with fire." Nehemiah was a true patriot, and could not rest till he obtained permission to repair to the scene of desolation, and authority to rebuild the ruined walls. Having secured this, he hastened to the spot, assembled his desponding brethren, encouraged them to co-operate with him in the restoration of the city, and adopted such prudent and vigorous measures, that in spite of the intrigues and opposition of their enemies, "the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days."

The enterprise in which Nehemiah was engaged was identified with the peace and safety of Jerusalem, and closely connected with the prosperity of the cause of God. We also, as Christian reformers, are engaged in an enterprise of no small moment. Our professed object is the restoration of the walls of the spiritual city, the church of our Saviour. In carrying on this great work we may