

*A Trip to Manitoba, or Roughing it on the Line*, by MARY FITZGIBBON. Toronto: Rose-Belford Publishing Co., 1880.

'On the line,' gentle reader, does not imply by any means on the equator. Another line, also to some extent imaginary, is intended, namely the line of the Canada Pacific Railway. And, as we read in books of sea-travels, of the hardships which novices have to undergo at the hands of King Neptune in crossing the 'old original' line, so we learn here of the miseries of those who pass a more or less muddy existence in going to and fro along the route of our prospectively great national highway. These discomforts are very graphically and naturally told by Miss Fitzgibbon, whose little work shows capacity both for humour and description, and (still rarer praise to fall from a reviewer's pen now-a-days!) contains no hackneyed French phrases, no superabundance of quotations and quotation-marks, and to sum up all, no padding!

Here is a Dutch picture of the party setting out from Winnipeg for a journey over the prairie. 'Can you imagine a three-seated waggon, containing a load of valises, travelling-bags, a tin box of edibles for a week's journey, tents, blankets, pans, kettles, pails, a box of earth containing bedding plants, a bundle of currant bush slips, a box of cats (being the cat and five kittens), a box of family silver, engineer's instruments, wraps of every description, provender for horses, a bag of bread, the driver's own provisions (it was part of the bargain that he was to "find" himself), loose articles of all kinds thrown in at the last moment, five adults, two children, one small dog and an unhappy-looking bird!' Imagine such a load jolted along a corduroy road and through a succession of mud puddles so that the edibles get mixed up and they have to drink salted tea! Heavy rain and mosquitoes attack the travellers together, the canary's cage has to be emptied of water repeatedly, and the cat claws vigorously at any one who comes near her hamper! Curious are the places they have to take shelter in. At one house on the Dawson route, the hopeless wife of the proprietor moved about 'in melancholy protest, or sat with her head leaning against the wall, applying the corner of her apron to her eyes so constantly that that particular

corner would not lie flat when allowed to drop.'

But this was luxury compared to the accommodation afforded to emigrants at Fisher's Landing (before they reached Winnipeg). The 'Ho-tel' there was so crowded that seven men slept on the floor of a room and about twenty women, who had to take refuge from the mud and rain while waiting for the steamer, had to pay twenty-five cents a-piece (children half price) for standing room under cover! But Miss Fitzgibbon found Fisher's Landing much improved on her way back.

Miss Fitzgibbon gives us a graphic account both of canoeing and camping out and also of the everyday life of an engineer's family on one of the advanced sections of the line. The studies of Indian, Irish, and half-breed characters which she comes across are very life-like, and her descriptions of scenery are often really pretty. The only part in which our author appears out of her element is in some of the few explanatory notes she gives. For instance, at p.24, speaking of the Michigan canal at the Sault, and the command which it would give the Americans in case of war, she considers all difficulty would be obviated by making the Imperial Government joint proprietors. It does not seem to occur to her that in case of war such joint rights would mean nothing, we should still have to seize with the strong hand, which is no more and no less than we should have to do as matters stand now, if we wished to gain the mastery of the upper lake.

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*Bigotry Demolished*; the Close Communion Baptists refuted, examples exemplified, and Christian Union vindicated. By Rev. G. C. MOORE, of Moorefield, Ontario; Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Company, 1880.

This book consists of a series of essays having for their subject the position held by the Close Communion Baptists. This the author maintains to be untenable on Christian grounds, and irreconcilable with the doctrine and practice of the Primitive Church. The illustrations which are given in the course of the argument are well chosen, and cover a rich and varied field of reading. Our sympathy is certainly on the liberal side of this question,