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CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.

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

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[The following is the first of a series of Historical Notices of the Congregational Churches of Canada.—ED. HAR.]

QUEBEC.

It would appear from the information derived from several competent sources, that prior to the year 1800 a few religious soldiers stationed at Quebec, applied to the London Missionary Society for a Minister of the Gospel to labour in that city. The call was responded to, by that society, and two were sent out in that year; namely, the Rev. Messrs. Bentom and Mitchell. On their arrival at Quebec, they found that the regiment had been removed, so that the applicants were no longer in that city, and they further found that with little to encourage, there existed very much to discourage their efforts. Mr. Mitchell proceeded to Montreal, whence, after a few weeks absence he returned, reporting that in the present "Emporium of Commerce," there then existed no prospect of success in that work to which they were devoted. He proceeded, therefore, downwards to the Bay Chaleur, where it is said, he laboured during three years with considerable encouragement, and that on his retirement from that post, he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Pigeon. What were the ultimate results of these labours, is not known, nor whether or not there are now the remnants of a church there.

Mr. Bentom took lodgings with a cooper who inhabited a small cottage, and there commenced proclaiming the gospel to a few who gathered in his room. Soon thereafter the little congregation removed to the house of Mr. Hadden, and their increasing numbers

rendered it needful to occupy a larger space in the second story of a public house. Here the place became too strait for them so as to induce the removal of first one partition and then another, until the entire area was opened. On this place becoming too small they removed to the Freemason's Hall where, they continued for a considerable time with a congregation of about 200 souls.

During the summer of 1801, Mr. Bentom regularly organized a Christian Church in accordance with ancient Apostolic order, about forty disciples thus uniting together in the fellowship of Saints. He moreover obtained the usual register, and performed all the functions of the holy ministry. Acquiring considerable popularity and influence, being favoured with much success, he did not proceed many years without exciting jealousy and opposition. The arch-enemy can always find willing human instruments to oppose the truth, when his kingdom is successfully attacked. Mr. Bentom laboured as a Minister almost gratuitously, deriving the chief part of his support from his services to the public as a medical practitioner. Of course, his encroachment on their province was disliked by the medical faculty.

On applying for his register for the third year, he was refused in a manner far from courteous. As a consequence he was virtually prohibited from celebrating the nuptial ceremony, and administering the ordinance of baptism; nor was he permitted to officiate at funerals, the public grave-yard having been closed against him. It may be supposed the sentiment expressed concerning him was "these that