

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 26, 1865.

"HAVELOCK'S LAST CAMPAIGN" is the subject of a lecture lately delivered by the Rev. John Lathern, and now published in pamphlet form. Our thanks are due for a copy. The thrilling story of Cawnpore and Lucknow will bear repeating, and will be cherished in the memories of Englishmen, and referred to, as a bright page in the history of India, for many generations to come. We did not have the opportunity of hearing the lecture, but have now read it with much interest and pleasure. The theme is worthy of the fervid eloquence of the author. Perhaps no incident in modern history brings out more prominently the finest features of British courage, endurance and heroism. The whole rebellion was a trial between barbarism and enlightened government; between oppression and liberty; between the Crescent and the Cross. Against fearful odds, in both numbers and the ability to obtain supplies, the British troops shewed the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race, over the masses of Hindoos in rebellion. We have more than a national interest in this contest, and the remarkable success which attended the said campaign. As Nova Scotians we had a Sir John Inglis shut up in Lucknow, enduring untold sufferings, and as Baptists we had a General Havelock, maintaining his regular christian worship in his army, and hastening on to the relief of the Nova Scotian General, which he did by almost miraculous means.

We thank Mr. Lathern for reproducing and reviving in our memory these pages of eastern history. The tribute paid to Havelock's christian character we take the liberty of copying for our readers:—

Havelock's earnest religiousness compels our homage, and deserves the tribute of special remembrance and recognition. He had long been distinguished for the unshrinking avowal of his convictions, and for uncompromising fidelity to the faith of Jesus Christ. "Every inch a soldier, and every inch a christian," according to the testimony of Lord Hardinge, he demonstrated the compatibility of religious fervour with military enthusiasm. By the sublime consistency of christian character, combined with the highest professional distinction, he compelled thoughtless men to do homage to the religion of Christ. Though his noble catholicity of feeling was not restricted by the lines or limits of denominationalism, yet holding views of christian doctrine and discipline in accordance with those maintained by the Baptist Section of the Church of Christ, he became,—soon after his marriage to the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Marshman, the illustrious Serampore Missionary, in 1829,—a member of that community, and continued, until the period of his death, one of its most steadfast adherents and one of its brightest ornaments. But never was the earnest religiousness of Havelock more conspicuous than in his last campaign. He had an altar in his tent. He cared for the spiritual welfare of his soldiers. He trusted more to a Divine arm than to his own, the skill or prowess of his troops. On the morning of the final struggle for the relief of the Residency,—the memorable 25th,—he rose before break of day, passed some time in prayer, and commended himself, and his army, to the protection of a gracious Providence. He publicly ascribed victory to Almighty God. He was not ambitious to win blood-stained wreaths of earthly fame; but coveted a higher distinction—the crown for duty done.

"In hoc signo," pale nor dim
Lit the battle field for him."

Religion ennobled his aims, purified his motives, exalted his courage, sanctified his genius, and threw its charm around his life. "The name of Havelock," says Count Montalembert, "recalls and sums up all the virtues which the English have exercised in this gigantic conflict. Thrown suddenly into a struggle with a great peril before him, and insignificant means whereby to overcome it, he surmounted every thing by his religious courage." Religion nerved the soul of the great Commander for heroic effort; was the central, controlling, all dominant influence which swayed his being, and developed that "antique grandeur of character" to which the celebrated French author has so emphatically and eloquently referred. SIR HENRY HAVELOCK'S name will go down to posterity enshrined in a glory all its own. Almost unrivalled military genius in combination with rare moral excellence, greatness and goodness, will secure for him imperishable renown. He will be enrolled amongst the titled warriors of the ages, as the CHRISTIAN HERO.

NEW YORK CITY.

The following description of this vast and important commercial centre—the largest city of this continent—is part of a statement made before the Senate and Assembly of New York State by Dr. Stephen Smith. A thorough and minute inspection had been ordered, and the state of things revealed must therefore be taken as entirely truthful, although it would seem almost incredible that so many human beings could be confined within such a small space:

"New-York is an island having an area of about thirty-four square miles, inclusive of its parks. Unlike Philadelphia, London, and most other large cities, which have a back ground of hundreds of square miles upon which to extend, according to the exigencies of the population or of business, New-York is limited in its power of expansion, and must accommodate itself to its given area. While it is true that a large business population will gather upon the adjacent shores, it is equally true that these non-residents will be of the better class. The laboring population will, for the most part, remain upon the island, and must be accommodated in the city proper, as they are compelled to live near their work. New-York has, thus far, grown without any control or supervision, and its population is estimated at 1,000,000 of persons. Of this number, at least one half are of the laboring and dependent classes, compelled to live under such conditions as they find their homes, without any power either to change or improve them. Following the natural law which governs the movements of such a population, the wealthier or independent class spreads itself with its business arrangements over the larger proportion of the area, and the poorer or dependent class is crowded into the smallest possible space. Already New-York has covered about 8 of its 32 square miles with the dwellings of a population not far from 1,000,000, and all its commercial and manufacturing establishments. And the result is, as might have been anticipated, the dependent class, numbering fully one half the people, is crowded into tenement-houses which occupy an area of not more than two square miles. Such crowding amounts literally to packing. For example, it is estimated that there are three contiguous blocks of tenement-houses which contain a larger population than Fifth-avenue; or, again, if Fifth-avenue had front and rear tenement-houses as densely packed as tenement-houses generally are, there would be a population of 100,000 on that single avenue. A single tenement-court in the Fourth Ward is arranged for the packing of 1000 persons. A resident of the same ward reports that: "On a piece of ground 240 feet by 150, there are 20 tenement-houses, occupied by 111 families, 5 stables, a large soap and candle factory, and a tanyard, the receptacle of green hides." The filth and stench of this locality are beyond any power of description. In general, it may be stated that the average number of families to a house among the poor is 7, or about 35 persons.

"A citizen who witnessed the riots thus truthfully and graphically describes the inmates of tenement-houses:

"The high brick blocks and closely-packed houses where the mobs originated seemed to be literally hives of sickness and vice. Lewd, but pale and sickly young women, scarce decent in their ragged attire, were impudent and scattered everywhere in the crowd. But what numbers of these poorer classes are deformed—what numbers are made hideous by self-neglect and infirmity! Alas! human faces look so hideous with hope and self-respect all gone! And female forms and features are made so frightful by sin, squalor, and debasement! To walk the streets as we walked them, in those hours of conflagration and riot, was like witnessing the day of judgment, with every wicked thing revealed, every sin and sorrow blazingly glared upon, every hidden abomination laid bare before hell's expectant fire!"

With streets proverbially filthy, and other common nuisances, this city has two hundred slaughter-houses many of which are in the most thickly populated districts,—What a field for epidemics, disease, and premature death!

It is an interesting enquiry to make, what is the provision of a religious nature for this large mass of humanity? We have from another source, the N. Y. Observer, an interesting table of the churches of this great Babylon. It appears that there are but three hundred and six church edifices—less on an average than one to 3000 people. In 1785 there were but nine churches. It will be seen by the several columns below the progress each denomination has made during the past twenty years:—

	1845.	1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.
Baptists	23	28	32	33	29
Presbyterians	32	42	49	55	56
Episcopalians	32	44	50	57	60
Methodists	29	34	41	42	38
Catholics	15	18	24	32	32
Dutch Reformed	18	15	21	24	24
Jews	7	10	19	16	9
Lutherans	3	5	6	7	4
Congregationalists	5	10	7	4	3
Friends	4	4	4	3	3
Unitarians	2	2	2	2	4
Universalists	4	3	4	4	4
Miscellaneous	16	11	24	21	22
Total	190	226	283	300	306

This table is an interesting study. The Roman Catholics have more than doubled in number of churches; the Jews have more than trebled; the Friends and Universalists and Congregationalists have decreased; the Baptists have gained six churches; the Methodists less than is generally supposed; the Episcopalians and Presbyterians had the same number of churches twenty years ago, and now the former have four more than the latter."

It is not to be wondered at, that the annual death-rate is one in thirty-five of the population higher than that of Boston, Philadelphia and Liverpool.

A late Police Report called attention to the swarm of truant and vagrant children. It appears that the number of these reported by teachers for the year was 4683 of whom 300 could not be traced to their homes. It is

then asked. Who can tell the number of others not known at school but who wander in the streets with none to take care of them?

PETROLEUM.

Colossal fortunes have of late been made by dealing in this article and the lands whence it is derived. A number of wealthy companies are formed with a capital of millions of dollars for purchasing lands and pumping up the oil from the vast deposits supposed to be inexhaustible beneath them. We scarcely take up a paper without reading of fresh discoveries of the article in the United States and Canada. In many places the excitement caused by these is greater even than that arising from gold discoveries.

It is not easy to form a theory free from objection to account for its presence in the bowels of the earth. Wells of the article have been known to exist in the east—Persia and Burmah—from time immemorial, but those of the United States and Canada, recently discovered, are, in the quantity of their yield, far beyond any that have been discovered in other countries. The theory advanced by Professor Bowen concerning this substance is, that by decomposition of the enormous vegetable productions in the earlier ages of the earth, and during the process of the formation of coal, a dense exhalation was produced, which, becoming condensed, would combine with the resinous and oily juices of the forests, and form large beds or lakes of this liquid substance now so usefully employed for the purposes of supplying us with artificial light and heat.

Already quite a revolution has been effected in these respects. Where formerly oil and tallow gave their dim unwholesome aid to supplement our daylight, there, now, at a much less cost, we may enjoy a brilliant, steady, pleasant light, superior in some respects to gas. A late Toronto paper contains accounts of discoveries in four or five different places in Canada. The following may be taken as a specimen:

"We have not come to oil yet in Wardville but gas and that big, at 46 feet from the surface. The company having determined to test the surface with a small augur, 3 1/2 inches to the rock, by so doing would form a good opinion as to the probable cost of putting their well down. Having commenced operations yesterday, while the President was with the contractor at three o'clock p.m., the water in the hole rose to the surface, then receded. All thought that something would soon come, and before the augur could be got out, up went water, mud, &c., to a height at least of 60 feet. Then it roared like the sound of distant thunder; a match was placed near the hole, and all at once an explosion; the flames rushed high up in the air thirty feet. Hundreds from the county of Newbury, Cashmere, and those from the country who were in town trading with the merchants, and the townsfolk, flocked to see the great sight, and a beautiful sight it was at night, lighting up the whole valley where the well is situated. The flames lasted until three o'clock this morning, burning twelve hours."

Here is another from the Fergus Constitution:

"Up to the hour of going to press, the excitement still continues. Bottles filled with the oil are on exhibition, and old flannels which have been dipped in the new oil springs are floating from the residences of some gentlemen, who appear to be good judges of coal oil, and where coal oil ought to be found. One of the fortunate proprietors has already refused \$4,000 for a lot in the coal oil region, Mr. R. Todd, who is acquainted with the Bhanskillen wells, declares that the new oil springs of Fergus will far outstrip the ones at Enniskillen.

The following is a sketch of Prof. Bowen's theory.

"In the United States the rocks in the Devonian stratum constitute the veins of the coal or oil basins. During this period (Devonian) there were great inland seas or lakes which received the waters of numerous rivers."

"The Devonian Lakes drained the surrounding country in the same manner as the lakes and rivers of the present day, and, therefore, it is highly probable that before the elevation of the Alleghany mountains, and while the sea was still undulating over the country now comprising Alabama, Louisiana, and the States north and northwest, the whole system of drainage was west and southwestward, and the coal basins of Illinois and Missouri were from time to time invaded by the sea." "After the Devonian basins began to fill up, by the sediment drained from the adjacent rocks, and after their broad margins had been converted into marshy flats or prairies, precisely similar to those of Lake St. Clair, vegetation flourished immediately in the most extraordinary luxuriance. The vegetation must have consisted mainly of flowerless grasses, perhaps not dissimilar to those which flourish spontaneously along the marshy bottoms of rivers and oceans. The great heat and moisture of that period must have added very materially to their growth. Very soon the prairies became covered with immense forests of coniferous trees, the woody cells and fibres of which, like those of our existing pines and firs, consisted mainly of resinous and oily secretions. These forests in all probability ex-

tended hundreds of miles over the sloping plains of the lakes, and were liable to the same contingencies of ultimate decay and destruction as the forests now existing."

"They were the most enormous fields of vegetation which have ever yet flourished upon the face of the globe. This vegetation grew in undisturbed luxuriance. It was not degraded upon by prowling animals. The atmosphere was composed largely of carbonic acid gas, which stimulated the growth of the trees, and prevented animal existence, and probably, also, any tendency to combustion. As before stated, the crust of the earth was very warm, and the atmosphere very humid, consequently the growth of vegetation was very rapid. But the forests would at times yield to that unsparring law which levels everything. Whether by tempests, or the overpowering gravity of their elevated tops, or the prostration of one upon the other—it is certain that entire forests would finally fall, to give place to a new growth. Accumulating thus on the sloping prairies, constantly moist and wet with the atmospheric exhalation and condensation, the prostrate vegetable material would be exposed to fermentation and distillation. Trunks and fragments of trees, and the accumulating rubbish of the forest, under the smouldering fermentation thus evolved by the interior heat of the earth, would part with their resinous and oily juices, while the atmosphere would be blackened by the smoke and gas. The whole earth was thus enveloped in the fermenting process. The gases ascending from the smouldering vegetation would be arrested by the fogs and vapors of the atmosphere, and thrown down upon the earth in the form of soot and lampblack. The soot would accumulate like layers of snow, and uniting with the oily liquids issuing from the vegetable mass, would be borne off to the waters of the adjacent lakes."

It is supposed by many that the crude petroleum will soon take the place of coal for steam and heating purposes; and a little further contrivance will give us petroleum stoves, to be used in preference to those for wood and coal. It is also even thought that the gas now used for lighting cities and dwellings will ultimately give place to this mineral oil.

ANOTHER NATIVE PREACHER FOR BURMAH.—A letter from Rev. John Davis, Charlotte Town P. E. I., makes the following reference to the few lines inserted in the Messenger two weeks since:

Charlotte Town, P. E. I., April 18, 1865.

MY DEAR BROTHER.—I want to say, first of all, that your Halifax friend who proposes to give fifty dollars (\$50) for the support of an additional native preacher in Burmah may now hand his cheque to Dr. Tupper for that amount. I was mentioning the matter to a friend of mine last night by way of inquiring whether we, the Baptists in and about this city, could not take up the brotherly challenge? That brother, this morning informs me, that he accepts the challenge on his own account. Thus, the second fifty dollars required in the case is secured, and your friend's desire is gratified."

The cheque came enclosed. We obtained the fifty dollars from the friend who first proposed the matter, and have transmitted the amount (\$100) to Rev. Dr. Tupper. Such spontaneous offerings, both anonymous, are gratifying indications of a desire to send forth the gospel to the regions beyond, which we trust may bring down blessings on the donors and on the communities in which they dwell.

Our readers' attention is invited to a Prospectus in another column of "Memorials of the Life and Times of the late Rev. Harris Harding of Yarmouth, N. S.," prepared by Rev. John Davis. We hope the number of names required will soon be made up, so that this addition to our small stock of our provincial and denominational literature may be secured without delay. We shall keep a list of Subscribers' names at our office and shall be glad to receive the names of those who desire to possess a copy of the work. If it be taken up promptly there need be but a week or two pass before it may be announced that it will be published.

OUR friend, the editor of the Christian Visitor, faucies that the recent action of the Legislature, with respect to the College question, settles the "vexed question" of Dalhousie College. We beg to say that we think very differently. Supposing Dalhousie to be, as he says, "generally regarded as nothing more nor less than a Presbyterian College," the circumstances in which it is placed, receiving about \$4,000 per annum, would scarcely be compensated for by an addition of \$400 a year to the others.

On behalf of the Episcopalian body we would take the liberty of saying that our friend is under a wrong impression respecting the amount they receive from the Province. The Visitor says:

"It was stated by Mr. Longley in debate that the Presbyterians still get the "lion's share"; but he will remember that the Episcopalians get the big portion also. Their Provincial grant is nearly double the amount given to the Baptists. Is this right?"