

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

REVIEW.

The Red River Expedition.—By Captain G. L. Huyshe, Rifle Brigade, late on the Staff of Colonel Sir Garnet Wolseley. 8vo. pp. 260. London.

The rebellion at Red River Settlement, in which an adventurer named Riel figured for a time, encouraged by disloyal priests, rendered necessary the employment of military force to assert the Queen's authority and re-establish peace and good order. Twelve hundred men were despatched for this purpose; one third of them were regular troops—two thirds, militia. The object of the expedition was obtained without battle or bloodshed. Riel fled at the approach of the army; Lieutenant Governor Archibald was installed in his high office, and British rule was firmly established.

In the volume before us we have an account of the passage of the expedition through the northern wilderness. The record is one of remarkable interest. Its publication was well advised, and will be useful in various respects.

The distance from Toronto to Fort Garry is upwards of twelve hundred miles. One-half of the journey was performed by steam, on Lake Superior. The remainder was a succession of struggles with difficulties, severely taxing the mettle and patience of the men, by whose pluck and perseverance all obstacles were finally overcome, and the success of the expedition secured.

From Prince Arthur's Landing, at the Northern end of Lake Superior, to Lake Shebandowan, a distance of forty-eight miles, the transit was to be accomplished by a road which Mr. Dawson, C. E., had engaged to construct. But it was no easy matter. "The road passed over a country where the ordinary facilities for road-making were not procurable; no metalling was attempted upon it anywhere; gravel was only to be found at a very few places; and for miles in some localities even sand was only to be obtained by carting it from a distance. At many places it was necessary to carry the road over swamps and peat-mosses, where deep drains and heavy fascine work were indispensable. It crossed two considerable rivers and numerous large streams, over which bridges had to be constructed. In some districts it passed through a red clay soil of a most tenacious nature, quite impervious to water. After rain, in such places, the first few teams that passed over it cut it up into frightful ruts; and for days afterwards the wear and tear on horses was so great as to stop all traffic. The only portions that stood continuous traffic were those that had been corduroyed; for, although they were rough and only suited for slow draught, still they were passable in all weathers." Besides, there had been fires in the woods and floods in the streams, and so it came to pass that the road was in an unfinished state. An enormous amount of labour was imposed on the troops, who underwent it most cheerfully. "Colonel Wolseley himself thus writes of the 60th at this time: 'The men and officers have worked in a way that I have never seen soldiers do before; they are all as cheery as possible, and seem to enjoy the life, which is assuredly no easy work.' And again: 'I have just heard from McNeill, who is encamped at the Dun Site; he is loud in his praises of the 60th, as indeed every one must be, who has seen them work here.' 'The militia, too, vied with their brethren of the regulars, and one and all nobly followed the example set them.'"

When they reached Lake Shebandowan the boating began. The expedition had a journey of six hundred miles before them, on lakes and rivers; and it would have been easy enough, had there been no obstructions. But when they came to the end of a lake, or when the rapids in a river prevented navigation, it was a portage, which meant the conveyance of provisions and stores, and the boats themselves, overland, to the next body of water.

"The labour of portaging was very severe; everything had to be carried across on the backs of the men. For this purpose, Indians and experienced voyageurs use a long strap called a 'portage strap,' which consists of a broad thick band of ox-hide leather, 26 inches long, and 3½ inches broad, tapering off at both ends to one inch in breadth. To each of these ends is sewn a long leather strap about one inch wide and five to seven feet long, the whole forming one long strap. It is used thus: The long ends are tied firmly round the barrel or package to be carried, in such a manner as to leave at the broad part of the strap a loop

large enough to allow the head to be passed through. The barrel is then hoisted on to the back, and the broad part of the strap rests against the forehead. In this way almost the whole strain bears on the back-bone and vertebrae of the neck. An Indian usually clasps his hands round the back of his head to help the 'leverage,' and in this manner will carry an immense weight.

Our men at first were rather awkward at it, and could not carry a great weight, but they got into the way of it very quickly, and before they got to Fort Garry would think nothing of a weight which at first they would have been physically unable to stagger under. Our barrels, or rather half-barrels, of pork, were the heaviest packages we had; they weighed 200 lbs. each—four barrels 120 lbs., biscuit barrels 100 lbs. An experienced voyageur thinks nothing of a barrel of pork. I saw one fellow, a slight and by no means strong-looking man, carry two barrels of pork at the same time, and he asked for something else to be put on the top! He was a half-breed Indian from Fort William." pp. 105-107.

There were forty-seven portages between Lake Shebandowan and Fort Garry. The aggregate distance was seven miles. No wonder that they exclaimed, when they came to the last, "No more portages, thank God!"

They reached Fort Garry, Aug. 24, 1870, and took possession without opposition, for Riel and his two "Secretaries of State," Lepine and O'Donoghue, had judged it expedient and safe to withdraw. "The Union Jack was hoisted, a royal salute fired, and three cheers given for the Queen, which were caught up and heartily echoed by a few of the inhabitants who had followed the troops from the village." Riel and his companions "made their escape across the bridge over the river Assiniboine, and then crossing to the right bank of the Red River, galloped up the bank for some distance, when, finding, doubtless to their surprise, that they were not pursued, they halted to rest. Next morning they could not find their horses, which had either been stolen or had strayed over the prairie during the night, so they pursued their journey on foot. After a while they wanted to cross to the left bank of the river to take the regular road to Pembina, but were unable to find a boat. Collecting some logs of wood and rails from the fences, they extemporized a raft, which they lashed together, in default of rope, by their breeches and neck-ties, and other portions of their attire, and at last succeeded in getting across. Riel, however, lost one of his boots in the passage, and had to continue his journey barefooted. They had nothing to eat except a few dried suckers (fish), procured from a farm-house; and in this sorry plight, footsore, hungry, and wet, the ex-President and his two Confederates reached the United States' territory, a melancholy example of the mutability of human affairs, and the ups and downs of fortune. Riel seemed to feel acutely the change in his position, and said to a man whom he met travelling to the settlement: 'Tell them that he who ruled in Fort Garry a few days ago is now a houseless wanderer, with nothing to eat but two dried suckers.' p. 199. He retired to "his own home in the little village of St. Joseph," about thirty miles from Pembina, where he has been allowed to remain unmolested. Ought he not to have been brought to his trial for treasonable practices and for the murder of Scott?

An "Order of the day" issued by Col. Wolseley before the return of the regular troops contains the following passages:—"Your labours began with those common at the outset of all campaigns,—namely, with road-making and the construction of defensive works; then followed the arduous duty of taking the boats up a height of 800 feet, along fifty miles of river full of rapids, and where portages were numerous. From the time you left Shebandowan Lake until Fort Garry was reached, your labour at the oar has been incessant from day-break to dark every day. Forty-seven portages were got over, entailing the unparalleled exertion of carrying the boats, guns, ammunition, stores, and provisions, over a total distance of upwards of seven miles. It may be said that the whole journey has been made through a wilderness, where, as there were no supplies of any sort whatever to be had, everything had to be taken with you in the boats.

"I have throughout viewed with pleasure the manner in which officers have vied with their men in carrying heavy loads. I feel proud of being in command of officers who so well know how to set a good example, and of men who evince such eagerness in following it.

"It has rained upon forty-five days out

of the ninety-five that have passed by since we landed at Thunder Bay, and upon many occasions every man has been wet through for days together.

"There has not been the slightest murmur of discontent heard from any one."

"It may be confidently asserted that no force has ever had to endure more continuous labour, and it may be as truthfully said that no men on service have ever been better behaved, or more cheerful under the trials arising from exposure to inclement weather, excessive fatigue, and to the annoyance caused by flies."

The flies were of four kinds—mosquitoes; black flies;—sand flies;—and deer-flies. The bite of the sand-flies is "as if you had been rubbed over with cayenne pepper." The deer-fly is "a large mustard-colored insect, three-quarters of an inch long, and furnished with nippers. He takes a piece of flesh right out when he bites, and will fight you like a wasp or a bee."

The success of the enterprise was greatly owing to the temperate habits which were observed. We know not with whom or how this novel mode of conducting an expedition originated. It might have been an experiment. If so, it succeeded admirably, and has furnished an important addition to the collection of proof (already large) that alcoholic drinks are not needed to strengthen men for toil, or to prevent the injurious effects of exposure to cold, or heat, or storm.

"There is nothing that is so refreshing when a man is thoroughly wet and tired as a good warm cup of tea or coffee; it is fifty times as good as brandy, rum, or whiskey. The latter only warm you up for a time and leave you colder than ever, but the effects of tea or coffee lasts much longer and leaves no vacuum behind it. There may be medical men in our army who would oppose the non-issue of spirits; it was so with the Red River expedition; some of the medical men asserted that it was a mistake, that it would never do—but the result was a most perfect triumph for tea; and should the same system ever be tried, as I hope and trust it will in the next European war in which England has to engage, I feel confident that the result would be the same. Not a man of the Red River force touched a drop of alcoholic or fermented liquor the whole way from Shebandowan to Fort Garry, except he was ill and received it from the store of medical comforts; and there was positively no sickness, and a total absence of crime, combined with the utmost cheerfulness and good humour, while the work performed stands unrivalled for its unusual nature as well as its severity." p. 126.

Captain Huyshe's book is well got up, both in a mechanical and literary point of view.

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

A Communication just received from "A former Alumnus of Acadia College" now in Massachusetts has some valuable thoughts in reference to that institution and the work it is doing. It were well if all her sons were mindful of her necessities. Men and means are her constant needs. Some can assist in supplying students, whilst others may be able to provide for her pecuniarily.

Almost anything concerning our mother is interesting. She needs money to help her prosecute her noble mission. Her appliances of Education are improving. The increased operations to give as thorough an Education as possible, are increasingly expensive.

The time is certainly past when the College professor discharges his duty, if he merely sees that the young men under his instruction repeat correctly from memory what is written in their text books;—that day has gone by.

The instructors of this age must be men of thought, research, and even genius, men who can make books, or teach without them, directly, personally, from an independent and original knowledge of the subject.

Such men are required to inspire enthusiasm and awaken interest. Books are dead things. They must answer because all cannot come into personal relations with the scholars who wrote them, thus to receive additional knowledge, imparted by the charm of their spoken words.

Text books which are crammed and recited to the professor, who hears them as a routine duty only, destroy as a rule, genius, and enthusiasm for independent knowledge.

The question with Acadia College now is, an increase of Endowment. How can it be brought about? It is a simple business problem. As such it should be discussed.

There are two plans that may be noticed. The first is Government appropriations. This is substantially the way the German Universities are sustained. But the continual change to which Governments are subject, the jealousies of different sectarian parties, wreck the plan, so that it would be futile as far as the Provinces are concerned.

The second plan is that of Endowment, the one adopted by Acadia. This is undoubtedly the better plan of the two. Men from pure love to Education should give their money to endow institutions.

The Governors of Acadia College properly regard it as right to go on soliciting the wealth of the Provincial Baptists until an Endowment sufficiently large has been raised to meet the demands of the times.

The business mode must be adopted in raising money. It should be gathered from every legitimate source possible. The poor man's dollars as well as the rich man's thousands should be collected.

The Baptist pulpit of the provinces should educate the people with the real necessity of running up the Endowment, to such a sum, that the College may be placed beyond a peradventure. There is wealth enough. The disposition to give should not be wanting.

Many of the graduates have not paid what it cost the College to educate them.

It is no more than right that each graduate should give his whole influence towards raising the Endowment of his *alma mater*.

Each one should give his undivided energies to making the college what it ought to be. Each graduate should do what he can in behalf of the institution; for it is the great hope of the Baptists in the British Provinces. With the College the denomination will rise or fall.

Every alumnus instead of looking on, an idle spectator, should be endeavoring to pay a debt he must undoubtedly feel he owes to Acadia.

Let us apply the principles which permeate to the core this living, active age; and not wait for the slow generosity of the few rich men? Let all give. Let the Baptists of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island come to the determination of making Acadia College a strong and efficient institution.

Is it not patent to all that the prosperity of the Baptist denomination depends on Acadia College?

From what source does the denomination expect its Ministry, if not from its own denominational College?

The sons of Acadia are scattered far and near, their influence should be at this time, in regard to the raising of the Endowment, if ever, like the leaven which the woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

The more than hundred alumni should, by the noble efforts of those living and the fragrant memories of those dead, to arouse such sympathy in behalf of our institution, that the endowment would soon be consummated.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the object for which so many prayers have been offered, and labors performed, may receive God's blessing and the warmest sympathy, and patronage of her sons and well-wishers.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE SCHOOLMASTER.

The profession of Teaching has never been looked upon as the best means of obtaining wealth or fame, but in my opinion there is not a member of society who deserves a higher reward and a fairer crown than a good Teacher. To raise a field from barrenness to fertility by constant tilling, to cultivate a tree until it yields abundantly, or to train a colt so that it is available for the service of man, are achievements deserving much esteemed. But useful and praiseworthy though they be, they cannot stand a moment's comparison with the good which a schoolmaster accomplishes, when, after a successful combating with the dullness and obstinacy incident to childish nature, he presents a youth to the world as a being, lately issued from the hands of the sculptor, remodelled and refined, and competent to flourish in Earth's moral society. A neglected piece of land is a disgrace to the neighborhood it is in, and a spoiled horse is a trouble to its owner, but an ignorant and neglected man is a curse to society, an impediment to anything that is useful. To prevent such fearful results as these is the noble task of a teacher, his school is the studio in which he tries to repair the defects of early neglect, to mould the mind and carry it in a channel, which will eventually lead to a sphere of usefulness. Great then is the work of the teacher, but not greater than

the responsibility. A highly privileged man is he who can say "In my youth I had a good teacher." And on the other hand the man is to be pitied who is compelled to state the contrary. An injury has been done him that cannot be fully redressed. The consequence of disease or the effects of financial disasters may be retrieved but the work of a bad teacher, although counteracted by later exertions, always leaves some evidences behind of the sad havoc it has caused. But the failure is not always with the teacher. He sometimes experiences that his work is hard and unrewarded; but he should never be discouraged by thoughts of his being unfit for his work because it does not succeed altogether according to his expectations. If he suppose that he is able to make an Ethiopian white or remove the spots from a leopard's skin he ought himself to take a lesson, and it is a well known fact that there are not a few Ethiopians and leopards in our schools now-a-days. Many parents look upon the school as a kind of Reformatory, where they expect the poor care-worn schoolmaster to smooth away all the low principles and bad habits which by evil example and ill training, they have early developed in their children at home.

They suffer them during vacations at home to rush on in a reckless sort of way, and soothe themselves with the idea that the Teacher will put them all right again. It is a question often discussed in public and private now-a-days: Whether a school ought to be regarded as a place for teaching merely or training as well? But in my opinion children are not sent to school for the purpose of getting well instructed in the doctrine of the Trinity or the Atonement, they are not even sent there to learn the history and contents of the Bible. There are other establishments especially devoted to the teaching of those branches, and it cannot be deeply enough impressed on the minds of parents—that the family parlour should be the first of these establishments.

Children in modern times are sent to School to learn secular instruction, Reading, Writing, Grammar, Geography and other branches. Greatly in error is he who would suppose that to make a Christian Institution of a school, nothing is required save to begin with prayer and devote an hour or two every day to Biblical instruction. There are many schools which are opened with prayer every morning and afternoon and in which the Bible or the Catechism is taught every day, yet I fear that on close examination they would prove but a very poor advertisement to the cause of Christianity. Conceive of a school in which the idea of figures is to be conveyed through the use of a Christian Arithmetic, and when no other sums are given than those which are taken from Biblical subjects, such questions as, How many steps did the disciples take in walking to and from Jerusalem on the day of the Resurrection. Of how many fingers and toes were the servants of Abraham possessed, and so on. Now I question whether this manner of using the Bible is calculated to give children a correct idea of it and its intended use. In my opinion it is nothing less than making riddles, and enigmas out of Biblical subjects, and I am happy to know that such usages are nearly out of vogue, and being succeeded by a well defined course of lessons. But the prescribed system of education what it may, any schoolmaster, who desires to honour his maker will admit that the first step towards accomplishing that object is to teach his pupils well.

He must study zealously whatever may increase his own knowledge and his capability of communicating to others what he knows, and his best way of manifesting a christian spirit is by trying to make his pupils know thoroughly what he professes to teach them. Teachers who work in such a spirit as this are real blessings to the human race. Let us earnestly pray that the number of well instructed teachers in our country may be increased. We shall then be seen to raise a powerful barrier against an enemy: whom no navy though clad with iron and no army though armed with breech loaders will be able to resist.

A. S. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

CHURCH WANTS.

No. 2.

FOURBARANCE.

Christians are imperfect and many of them feel their imperfections and in private may be lamenting the same. One is struggling against a hasty temper, another