

[Editorial Correspondence.]

A Trip Into Michigan.

I am just home from a brief visit among relatives and other friends in Michigan.

Leaving home in the afternoon of May 29, "we," which, being expanded to its proper size, means "Uncle Albert Stow," my youngest daughter Daisy, and myself, went in a tolerably straight course to Mansfield, O., the home of John Sherman, thence to Fort Wayne, Ind., a little beyond which is "Island Park," onward to Grand Rapids, Mich., which was our objective point.

We did not take a sleeping car, but did our best to sleep a little by stretching out at full length in seats about half as long as we were. We found that this feat could only be accomplished by doubling up something like a closed jack-knife. We arrived in Grand Rapids before noon of May 31, and in a short time had found our home with the hospitable family of Russell J. Stow, "a pillar" in the church at Grand Rapids. Bro. Stow is the son of Zebulon Stow, who more than twenty years ago left Stow, Summit county, O., to found for himself a home in what seemed to us unexploited Bockeyes, the wild woods of Michigan. Of his family three of his children are now worthy citizens of Grand Rapids, and among the active and enterprising members of the rapidly growing church of Disciples in the city. The people of the city very properly lift their hats to them as Mr. Russell J. Stow, Mr. L. C. Stow, and Mrs. William Bellamy, but to me they are as they used to be, Russell, and Lothrop, and Lucy. While in the city my home was, for the most of the time with Lothrop. The city of Grand Rapids is a bright, bustling city of about sixty thousand inhabitants. Its growth seems steady and rests upon a substantial business basis. The Disciples have one church in this city at present, for which Bro. W. F. Richardson preaches and does parlor work. So far as I could learn his work is wisely directed and his labors highly appreciated. From a very small beginning only a few years ago, the church has grown so that it now numbers about one hundred and fifty members. It is well officered by such men as the Stows, Whitfield, Bellamy, and others whose names I do not now recall.

I spent Sunday, May 31, with the brethren in their church services. To me it was an interesting and delightful day. In the congregation were brethren and sisters whom I had met in churches of which they were once members in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and perhaps one or two other States. Up to this time the congregation has been meeting in a "hired house," but they have fairly under way, and, no accidents occurring, will soon have ready a house of their own, located in a good place and sufficiently commodious to supply the "present need." They intend to have it ready for dedication in September, about the time the State Missionary Meeting convenes there. I believe they have already leaved on Bro. B. J. Radford to do the proper thing on the occasion. Judging on general principles and after an examination of the plan of construction I should say that they were building wisely and well. The church has an excellent Sunday-school under the direction of Bro. M. H. Larrick, formerly of Akron, Ohio. It will please the hosts of friends of "Marsh" and "Josie," his wife, to know that they are doing well in their Michigan home, and are among the honored and useful members of the church at Grand Rapids. "Marsh" is superintendent of the Sunday-school and is highly regarded, and is showing an efficiency in the position not at all surprising to those of us who have known him long and know him best.

I had but little time to visit the members at their homes—much to my regret. I did visit Henry Lemoin, the "fire chief" of the city, for he was a pupil of mine almost a quarter of a century ago. He is a good man and a faithful officer, and appears to hold a permanent position in the fire department.

While visiting for a few hours at Bro. Rich-

ardson's I had the pleasure of meeting Bro. W. K. Arbill, formerly a missionary to Jamaica, but now general agent, generalissimo, and faithful worker for the Christian Women's Board of Missions. He reports hard work, good cheer, and steady progress for that body of Christian women. He was visiting the churches in Michigan, and also looking after the proposed evangelistic work at Ann Arbor. As I understand the situation, if Ann Arbor were selected as the one place in Michigan for the establishment of a congregation and nourished until it was self-sustaining, it would be the wisest action that could be taken. And let the Michigan Christian Missionary Society, the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, and the General Christian Missionary Convention join forces there, and the work could soon be accomplished. Suppose, for instance, that the generous bequest made by Sister Scott to these various societies all be expended there in building, first of all, a good house for worship in that important college town. The amount left would be sufficient to accomplish that much in a respectable way. Then let the C. W. B. M. assume the responsibility of providing that a good preacher is sustained there for a series of years. As a member of the Board of Managers of the General Society I would vote most heartily for such a union of effort. A good church at Ann Arbor would be a most worthy monument to the good sister whose bequests were so generously given, and of immensely more value to the church generally than the cross-road work now so frequently performed.

From Grand Rapids we made a run up to Big Rapids, about fifty miles farther north, to visit some relatives for a day. This is a bright little city of about six thousand people, in the midst of a beautiful country.

I must not forget to say that our visit to Grand Rapids was mainly to attend a wedding in the family of Bro. Wm. Bellamy. This important event took place on the night of May 24, and Clara A. Bellamy became the wife of Wm. H. Muir. Over one hundred guests were present; the presents were numerous, well selected and valuable; the supper all could be desired, and the conduct of the entire company most admirable. The good wishes of a host of friends go with the young couple into their new home.

The second Sunday, May 29, I spent with the church at Cascade. This is one of the best churches in Michigan. It could not be otherwise when it had among its charter members such men as Zebulon Stow and Henry Lowry, and others as good as they were. The church was born right, and its progress has been even and steady. Its membership embraces the intelligence of the community in which the church is planted. I can not recall the names of the members, but among them are Hon. Geo. P. Stark, Holt Johnson, Stow, and Mrs. Laura Patterson, a daughter of Zebulon Stow. We had quite a reunion of the Stow family after services on Sunday, viz: Alfred Stow and family, of Caledonia, Mich.; Russell J. Stow and family, and L. C. Stow and wife, Grand Rapids; Mrs. Laura Patterson and daughter, and James Stow and family, Cascade, and Albert Stow, Ohio, making, if I have counted rightly, seventeen persons in all, besides those of us more or less intimately related to the family. The meetings on Sunday were quite largely attended and apparently enjoyed by all. Cascade has been the home for several years of Bro. Elias Sise, who has also, until recently, been preaching for the church regularly. Not long since he left Cascade for Wayland, Michigan, I believe, where he is now located. While at Cascade we went out to the "fish hatchery" nearby, superintended by Mr. Holt. His fish family was quite large, and all the way in size from the "little fellow" a half inch long to the "big fish" weighing two or three pounds. He pays most attention to the variety known as brook trout, and they are "beauties." After leaving Cascade we made a brief visit with Bro. Alfred Stow near Caledonia, a station about

stay was short. This was our last visit in Michigan during our trip. Leaving Caledonia on the morning of June 1, we came via Detroit and Toledo to Cleveland and home, where we arrived in good time and in fair condition, well pleased with our trip. We spent several hours in Detroit, but not time enough to enable us to spy out much of the city. But I find that my letter is already full regulation length, and the half of the story I could tell has not been told. But we did have a good time, and surely that was what we went for; and I shall not forget the kindness of our relatives and brethren in Michigan. F. M. OSKIN. Kew, O.

A New Mission Movement. Bro. A. W. Conner, working under the direction of the Christian Business Men's Board of Evangelization, recently organized, with headquarters at Rushville, Ind., came over to Louisville to drop a seed. On Thursday night last, to a few brethren, he laid open the plan of this new movement.

The purpose is to utilize the means, influence and ability of Christian business men as leaders in the work of evangelization, particularly in home fields. The plan, in general features, is to go into a county and organize the business men of each congregation into an auxiliary to the General Board. Those taking annual, and life memberships and life directorships, respectively \$1, \$25 and \$50, organize themselves and come at once into connection with the General Board. The Board, operating through these, proceeds to organize the churches of the county, or district, if large, into co-operations, by means of representatives selected from the auxiliaries of business men in the district. The congregations are then to be closely canvassed for pledges for so much per annum for five years as each member will give. Ninety per cent. of these pledges is to be spent in evangelizing in the district so cooperating, ten per cent. being sent to the treasury of the General Board. This, with membership fees in all auxiliaries of the business men, is to be used in organizing and pushing the work into new fields, and to keep in motion organizations already formed.

The plan has at least one merit of note. It seeks to get our business men into activity, and to utilize their personal ability to manage and direct, a thing which thus far we have largely failed to secure. Bro. Conner informs me that several counties in Indiana have been and are being organized, and that our business men and churches are taking hold of this work with zeal; as they believe it to be practical. So far as I can see, it deserves consideration, and I can not understand why the essential features of the movement should not be grafted upon the plan now operated in each State. We must concentrate our means and resources, under wise direction, in a business way or suffer disintegration to such an extent as I shudder even to think of. Hundreds of churches will go down if help does not come from without. It is foolish pride, or fatal madness, to shut our eyes to the fact.

One county in Indiana, by systematic effort, has enlarged its number of churches by several, resuscitated its dying ones, and added 1,000 souls to its membership in about four years of work. What has been done there can be done in many other counties, and in hundreds of other counties a proportionally good work can be done.

Edmund Burke never said a truer thing than this: "When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, unopposed sacrifice, in a contemptible struggle." A similar statement would be true of our churches, with the added idea that good men and women are combining, under the inspiration of denominational extension. How, therefore, shall we, contenting for a restoration of the gospel, expect or hope to succeed without associated effort?

It is to be hoped that our brethren will give this movement their best thought. The officers of the General Board are: W. C. Mansv. President; A. G. Mansv. Secretary.

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