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"IN MERRIE ENGLAND"

Interesting Letter from Rev. J. S. I. Wilson, B.D., of Huntsville, formerly Pastor of Markdale Methodist Church, on His Recent Trip to England.

Dear Editor,—

I am writing this at Morecambe, a delightful watering place situated on a bay of the same name and an arm of the Irish Sea. I fancy this is quite typical of the many resorts to which the people of England flock during August and September.

For England is fully seized of the holiday idea. This is by no means confined to the class of people who ordinarily enjoy such a luxury. Factory and mill hands by the thousand have their holiday fund, putting by a modest amount each week, and then rushing to the seaside to enjoy the invigorating salt breezes for a week or ten days. I may add that many of the manufacturing industries close down for that period to facilitate this very happy arrangement.

This is especially in vogue in Lancashire and Yorkshire, though I am told the idea is growing in favour in other sections of England, and one cannot but wish the contagion would spread to other countries as well—Canada included.

But I must revert to the beginning of my trip. I was obliged to come away alone and not privileged with the company of Mrs. Wilson, as your paper inadvertently stated.

Sailing from Montreal on the 2nd July, I reached London on the 13th. I came on the Allan liner "Corinthian," a remarkably steady vessel, provided with every necessary accommodation and a set of officers and crew that outdid themselves in their efforts to ensure the comfort and pleasure of their patrons.

With the exception of about two days just after we entered the ocean, the weather was delightful, and the dreaded "mal-de-mer" a thing almost unknown throughout the trip. In fact, during the greater part of the voyage the ocean was like the proverbial pond. We missed the excitement and spectacular splendor of the typical storm at sea, but probably the fishes missed something as well.

The course through the channel proved one of continued interest. We sighted the Scilly Isles and Land's End, and passed quite close to the great Lizard Light—a powerful revolving search light that sweeps about forty-five miles of coast line—with one single exception the strongest light of its kind in the world. In the vicinity of the Channel Isles no less than three wrecks are described, telling the story of the severe storms of the week before. We pass within easy range of a British man-of-war and a French submarine, and at mid-day, on the 12th, reach Havre, where we spend nearly 24 hours. This is a city of superb natural situation, possessing a magnificent set of docks recently built by the French Government. We found this city, with its wide boulevards and fine parks, gaily decorated, and set ourselves the task of guessing the cause. As it was none other than the glorious 12th, this was the first suggested solution. However, it was speedily discarded as extremely improbable if not untenable. Guess number two—the arrival of the "Corinthian" with her distinguished passengers. But as there was no band at the docks to greet us and as the only kind of reception we got came from the street urchins calling for pennies and certain vendors displaying their wares, we were obliged to abandon this also. When the truth was told we learned that these were simply preliminary decorations for a great national celebration to be held on the 13th.

Rapidly leaving the French coast we soon sighted Beachy Head, and Pevensey Bay where the Conqueror first landed and near which the decisive battle of Hastings was fought. The lights of Calais are seen clear across the Channel. We pass quite close to Dover, lying snugly in natural harbor, and at the foot of immense heights lined with forts that are provided with artillery powerful enough to sweep any foreign fleet off the Channel.

In a few hours we are in the great throbbing heart of the Empire and the metropolis of the world—London, with her teeming population

You may possibly be interested to know what I did with myself on the Sundays. I contrived to attend seven services on the two Sundays, so I think it will be conceded that I made fairly good use of my opportunities. Among others I listened to Canon Hensley Henson, Dr. Basil Wilberforce, Rev. R. J. Campbell, who succeeds Dr. Parker in the City Temple Church, and Rev. J. E. Rattenbury, the successor to Hugh Price Hughes in the West London Mission. The music at St. Paul's Cathedral and Temple Church surpassed anything I had ever heard.

After two weeks in London, with its ceaseless roar, it was refreshing to get away to more rural scenes. For after all the true charm of old England lies not so much in her mighty cities throbbing with commercial life and instinct with historic associations, nor in her ancient and lordly castles and fine old cathedrals that everywhere abound, but in her rural life where symmetry and beauty and careful cultivation meet the eye on every side. A ride through England even on a railroad is a revelation and a joy. Over a perfect road-bed you glide smoothly along at 50 to 60 miles an hour, every inch of the way replete with interest. Everywhere the scene abounds with well cultivated fields bordered with trimmed or flowering hedges, multitudes of beautiful shade trees, comfortable houses with invariably a well kept lawn and flower garden attached; for even the tenant on the great estate and the happy possessor of a small holding makes his dwelling attractive and homelike. I am not surprised that a native of England after travelling extensively on the American Continent grows rapturous in his praise of English scenery, where hill and dale and lake and landscape possess a picturesqueness that fills the British heart with a pardonable pride. I enjoyed a drive one day through some 30 miles of Cheshire, including some of the choicest sections of that fertile and prosperous country and over a road as smooth and firm as a city pavement.

My space will not permit me to do more than make a bare reference to my visit to Windsor Castle, from the great round tower of which one looks out upon a radius of 25 miles of typical English scenery. On the day I visited it, Crystal Palace, 25 miles away, was quite visible to the naked eye. Nearer at hand one gets a glimpse of the old Stoke Poges Church—the churchyard of which is rendered immortal by Gray's Elegy, while at your feet lies the famous Eton College.

Oxford, with her antique and venerable halls of learning and still redolent with precious memories of martyred Bishops; Warwick, with her famous castle—one of the most picturesque feudal residences in England; Stratford-on-Avon, where once lived and where now lies the honoured dust of England's greatest Bard, and to-day enjoys the further distinction of being the home of the authoress, Miss Marie Corelli; Worcester, with her splendid old Norman Cathedral, and the porcelain works from which emanates the world-famed Worcester china; and Manchester, the great centre of the cotton trade and probably the busiest commercial centre in the United Kingdom; would each supply matter for a much more lengthy letter than I propose to write or you would care to publish. Chester, with her venerable city walls, and quaint gabled houses—the site of an old Roman Camp; and Liverpool, that great shipping centre with some 12 miles of docks, remain still to be visited before I sail for Montreal per Str. "Virginia" on the 19th Aug.

Permit me to say in conclusion that I shall turn my face once more to my own beloved land with increased gratitude and hope. For after all, "What past can match her glorious youth, This Canada of ours?" If we cannot boast of the historicity and development, only possible by centuries of progress and labour, we at least have a country with a great future, quivering with the irrepressible energy of buoyant youth, with all but illimitable, undeveloped natural resources, and with broad acres quite capable of relieving the over-crowded conditions in the motherland, if only some wise and intelligent method could be devised to ensure this "consummation so devoutly to be wished."

Trusting that what I have outlined in this hurriedly-written letter may be of some interest to your



REV. J. S. I. WILSON.

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Sincerely yours,
J. S. IVISON WILSON,
Morecambe, Lancashire,
Aug. 11th, 1910.

DUNDALK

(From the Herald)

Through the enterprise and energy of Mr. D. H. Palmer his new building on Main Street is completed and he has the rooms thoroughly equipped as a first class photography gallery and studio.

Mr. James Cole has purchased from Messrs. Jas. and C. A. Lamont the lot on Main Street from which the brick building was burned last January. We understand it is Mr. Cole's intention to begin rebuilding on the premises right away. It is a desirable business site.

The public school opened on Saturday and it was feared that life was near its close. He rallied, however, on Sunday and there was slight improvement at Thursday last. The staff this term is composed of four teachers, Miss Burnett, Miss Moore, Miss Draper and Miss Gardiner. The latter is present at least on account of her very weak condition which is left in town.

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