

CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUBILEE.

Services Commemorative of the Enthronization of the First Bishop of Fredericton.

AN ABLE REVIEW OF THE PAST FIFTY YEARS BY REV. DEAN PARTRIDGE.

Meeting at the City Hall and Social Entertainments.

Fifty years ago yesterday, the late Right Rev. John Medley was enthroned in the old parish church here as the first Bishop of Fredericton, and the fiftieth anniversary of the event was fittingly celebrated on Monday evening by a public meeting in the City Hall and by two interesting and impressive services at the Cathedral yesterday.

At the City Hall, Monday evening, Bishop Kingston presided, and those on the platform included Governor Fraser, Sir Leonard Tilley, Bishop Courtney of Halifax, Rev. Dean Partridge, Rev. Canon Deverber, Rev. Archdeacon Brigstock, Judge Hanington and Hurd Peters of St. John.

After prayers led by Bishop Kingston, His Lordship delivered a spirited address reviewing the arrival consecration and life work of Bishop Medley, and the advance of the Church in England in this province under his leadership. During the first thirty years of Bishop Medley's incumbency the average yearly confirmations were 307, and during the last twenty years the number rose to 612. In the past three years it was 655. The communicants in 1854 numbered 2,000; in 1872, 2,900; in 1882, 5,233; in 1892, 6,528; and in 1894, 7,273. In this Bishop Kingston recognized the good hand of God.

Governor Fraser gave some recollections of the late Bishop, who had taken the greatest interest in all that pertained to the welfare of this city and province. The erection of the splendid Cathedral was one of his grand works, and introduced a new style of church architecture in this province, which had been largely copied by all denominations. No better memorial than the Cathedral could be erected to perpetuate the memory of the great and pious man.

Sir Leonard Tilley said he was present at the reception tendered Bishop Medley in St. John in 1854, had the honor of knowing the dead relate for forty-eight years; sat under his preaching for twenty years; and longer he knew him the better he loved him. We can look back on his life with pleasure and satisfaction. His kindly sympathetic nature, his purity of life, was a continual sermon. Let us take him as an example copy his simplicity of life. In his great charity, the Bishop left enough to stimulate churches in their lives.

Bishop Courtney followed in an eloquent address in which he paid a high tribute to the many eminent qualities of the late Bishop. He also paid a very high compliment to the ability and earnestness of Rev. Dean Partridge, whom this diocese had kindly loaned to Nova Scotia for thirteen years.

A paper prepared by Rev. Canon Ketchum, of St. Andrews, was read by Rev. Canon Deverber sketching the career of Bishop Medley from his inception here as Bishop Ketchum, having been the first person ordained as deacon by the late Bishop.

Hurd Peters, of St. John, spoke of his early recollections of the Bishop and the old church and its worshippers. He also gave some interesting reminiscences of Fredericton as he remembered it in the early days of Bishop Medley.

Rev. H. Montgomery, of Kingsdale, read a lot of statistics regarding the work of the Diocese church society founded by the late Bishop. The contributions to the society in the past 50 years, amounted to over \$600,000 or more than \$12,000 a year.

Addresses were also given by Judge Hanington and Archdeacon Brigstock, and the entire meeting was interesting and instructive.

Services at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral was filled to the doors at 11 a.m., yesterday when a memorial service was held in honor of the late Bishop. The pulpit, reading desk, lectern and gasaliers were beautifully decorated with flowers, and rows of potted plants including many beautiful species of ferns, lined the aisles on both sides of the altar.

The congregation listened in singing to "O God, our Heavenly Father," and as they commenced the second verse the procession of clergy headed by a surpliced choir from St. John and Fredericton, entered the main door and sang as they proceeded up the centre aisle. Following the clergy were: Archdeacon Brigstock and Neales, Rev. Dean Partridge, and headed by Rev. Mr. Whally, Bishop of Kingston's chaplain, bearing his staff of office, came Bishop Kingston and Courtney. The formal installation of the Rev. Dean Partridge and the two Archdeacons was then proceeded with, and the regular service opened. It was full of choral and was led by Rev. J. M. Davenport, of St. John. Rev. Dean Partridge announced the hymns, Archdeacon Brigstock and Bishop Courtney read the lessons, and in the beautiful psalm, "How lovely are thy messengers," the duet was taken by Revs. Messrs. Davenport and Dicker. The music throughout the service was simply grand.

Rev. Dean Partridge was the preacher of the occasion and his sermon from Daniel 10th, verses 18 and 19, was as follows: "Fifty years ago yesterday, a boat was making its way up the noble river upon which this city is the usual port of call. The master and his sailors performed their duties with their accustomed diligence, and as the hours went by their journey drew to an end. On board that vessel was a company of men whose hearts beat high with expectation and hope. They were coming to make their home in a new land, charged with a mission that carried with it momentous interests. At their head was a man of strong, clear brain, of indomitable courage, of well-springed and cultured mind, of powerful will, and with a soul that truly waited upon God. The future that lay before him was unknown and untried. The difficulties which might arise in his path could only be conjectured. The helpers he might find were yet to be discovered. But the work which he had come to do was his Master's and not his own; and with noble fortitude and steady purpose he had set forth to spend and be spent in his Master's cause.

The Right Reverend John Medley had been consecrated in Lambeth Palace on May 4th, 1845, first Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton, and by his letters patent Fredericton had been constituted his see. Already well known as a ripe scholar and elegant preacher, the friend and companion of men whose names were household words in the motherland, with a reputation for wise and successful pastoral ministrations in his earlier charges, he had been nominated by those who knew his worth, in the full vigor of his physical and mental powers, to a post in the church of God which would call forth every energy, and demand the devotion of the whole man. Unsought as the office was, he had not hesitated to accept it, and in reliance on the Lord who hitherto had helped him, he had lost no time in reaching his distant destination.

On the shore awaiting his arrival were

bind for ever, of the certainty of promotion in his profession which awaited him, had he remained in England, and the severing of ecclesiastical ties between himself and his superiors, who loved him and knew his worth. Doubtless the thought of the awful burdens he now assumed; of the oversight of souls entrusted to him, of the organizations into which he would be expected to project all his spiritual energy, of the undoubted demand that would be made upon his time and physical strength, upon his self command and patience, upon his foresight and wisdom. And as he bowed himself before God, calm amid the excitement, who can doubt but that he again devoted himself to his master's service, crying "Here am I, for thou didst call me, and I will obey." On High the sanctification of his thoughts and toils to the good of his people? It is a scene in which we, fifty years afterwards, can join in spirit and feel that the passage of time is not the measure of our faith in the communion of saints, and that devotion to God's service is the same, now as then; will bring the same blessing, create within us a same joy, and be followed by the same reward.

Nor was the work which the Bishop had consecrated his life a light or easy one. A vast territory was under his jurisdiction, to be laboriously travelled over, when travelling was not a pleasure. Parishes were to be organized, churches to be started, funds to be raised, clergy to be trained, and, dearest project to his own head, a cathedral to be built, which should be at once a pattern and a stimulus to the diocese, and a centre for diocesan work. Progress had been made in the fifty years or so, preceding Bishop Medley's appointment in 1782, when only two English clergy ministers in the province, Rev. John Beardsley at St. John, and Rev. John Sayer at Marguerville. In 1786 there were six clergy and one scholar, and in 1815, the first official seat of the Bishop of Nova Scotia, there were nine, and in 1829, under the vigorous rule of Bishop John Inglis, there were twenty-six. When Bishop Medley came in 1845, the clergy numbered thirty-two. Thus in sixty-two years, the number of the clergy had increased thirty times. But there was much to be done, and the spirit in which the beginning was made, may be inferred from the results announced by the Bishop in the charge delivered at his second visitation held in 1850. He says: "The church of Nova Scotia, we took our places in that august assembly for mutual counsel and wise legislation. And the statesmanship and foresight of those two great leaders, Bishop Inglis and Bishop Medley, are justified, not only in the strong and cheerful influence at once exercised in the affairs of the church in Canada, but in the effect upon the life and vigor of their respective dioceses. The logical consequences of these momentous events, the formation of the General Synod of all Canada, so happily brought to pass in 1853.

Above all, his most persistent and most touching endeavors were made in the direction of the education of the people, who were privileged to know and hear him during many years, will understand how true an estimate this is of his character and teaching. He plainly saw, and lost no opportunity of saying, how any act of men wholly given up to their sacred calling, most persons will admit that they are not to be surpassed by any similar body anywhere. I believe that our clergy are, as a rule, self-denying, patient, persevering, devoted to their duty, spiritual minded, and thus that they exercise a power in the community which is not to be estimated by line or measure. For steadfast adherence to the principles of religion as interpreted and maintained by the Church of England; for attainments which in all are respectable, in many commendable, and in some marked; for ideals of the Christian life, both for themselves, and their people, which are truly Christlike; for general culture and information, which bring them respect and cause their counsel to be received with respect and satisfaction; for moderation and good sense, conciliatory manners towards others, combined with strict regard to our own standards, the clergy of this diocese may be justly considered as fulfilling the functions which belong to them with dignity, efficiency, sincerity, and zeal. This is a sober judgment, from which an undue partiality and a cheap enthusiasm has been carefully excluded, and in which most thinking people will be disposed to agree. It was not for nothing that in the fifty years, John Medley moulded the character of his clergy, by a large majority of his parishes were filled by men ordained by himself, and many of whom were more or less trained under his own supervision.

The advantage and blessings of the synod, we can duly estimate. As a common ground for the expression of widely diverging opinions, as a safety valve for ill-disciplined ardor, or ill regulated desire, no less than as the authority for legislation, which has with many safeguards passed through the furnace of controversy, the synod well serves its high purpose. It has been the anxious aspiration of its members from the first to live down all mere party spirit, all mutual intolerance, all uncharitableness, all undue assumption of personal infallibility. This has been to a great extent accomplished, and it is from time to time this ideal is lost sight of, and feelings are wounded, and unworthy motives imputed by whatever school of thought, these things are but ripens on the surface; the church's deep essential unity is undisturbed by what is alien to the gospel of Christ, and no such ephemeral taints and weaknesses can shake the mighty billows of the church's onward progress.

I am conscious of trying your patience, but this is a great occasion, and I must say a few words. It is stern to self, tender to others. Its roots are struck into the hoary past, of which it has preserved all that is justified by the doctrine and the spirit of the purest ages. And if there are any virtues in an unswerving allegiance to God's holy word, in the practice of daily public and private prayer, in the constant and devout use of sacramental grace, in a careful and orderly transmission of the holy ministry, in patriotic obedience to law and the powers that be, in the honest integrity that makes a man's word as good as his bond, then such a power, working steadily, though unobtrusively, in men's midst, must be like leaven, whose life is ever extending, and whose helpful action could not be withdrawn without serious loss to the people.

And may I speak a moment of the pattern his life exhibited of what he strove to impress on others. With its faults, and even its weaknesses. What mortal man is without them? But in the strength and vigor of his long career, he was sturdy, unshaken by obstacles, brushing aside mere annoyances, taking over the shortest allowable path to his end, unimpaired of detraction, fearless and yet cautious, unsparring of himself, yet tender of others, weighed down with the weight of his responsibilities, yet ever to the humblest and poorest; standing in Lambeth conference telling unpalatable truths with unyielding fidelity, though he might stand alone, and yet in daily by name for his clergy and his people, and bringing all the resources of his spiritual power to bear upon the sinning, the wayward and the wilful. 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