

of their fellow men is rapidly increasing; indeed there are very few, thanks to education, but what do command the respect of all; a man who wears the uniform of either army or navy is as much deserving of that respect as any other man whatever his position in life, provided, of course, he conducts himself in a proper manner; and these homes are an absolute necessity if men are to be given any assistance toward resisting the temptations alluded to. If we just in imagination place ourselves or our sons in their position it will bring home to us quicker than anything else their value and that it is our duty to render what assistance we can, financially and in other ways towards establishing the home proposed at Esquimalt.

The Rev. J. P. Hicks has for the past five years been connected with the work at Esquimalt as the recognized chaplain by the Army and Navy Committee officially appointed by the Admiralty, and more recently by the War Office also. During the past two years he has been exclusively engaged in this work. He had not long been appointed to the Victoria West Circuit before he fully realized the importance of establishing a Church and Home in Esquimalt, and accordingly wrote to the Rev. R. W. Allen, the venerable secretary of the Army and Navy Committee, on the subject. In 1897, the year of the Diamond Jubilee celebration, the committee decided to try and raise £10,000 in aid of Wesleyan Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes. Mr. Hicks again wrote asking for a grant of £400 towards building a church, with a couple of rooms attached. A very favorable reply was received and great hopes were entertained of obtaining the amount asked for. It was just at this point that Mr. Hicks had completed his three years as pastor at Victoria West; the men of the fleet being strongly attached to him and fearing a strange minister coming would not understand their needs and the peculiarities of the work as he did, being an Englishman and coming from a naval and military centre, petitioned the Conference for Mr. Hicks' appointment and sent a deputation to the Stationing Committee with the result that he was left without a station in order that he may look after this work.

The Army and Navy Committee finding the working of the deed under which they held the Jubilee Fund would not allow of their making a grant from that fund, a letter regretting their inability to do so was sent to Rev. J. P. Hicks by Rev. R. W. Allen; this came as a severe blow, as from the nature of the correspondence previously received we had fully expected a grant, if not the full amount asked for.

Finding the needs and claims of this important work growing rapidly and that it could not be represented as it needed to be by writing, and that something more must be done if the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, that the increased strength of the fleet, together with the garrisoning of Esquimalt by Imperial troops called for, was to be established, the advice of one who has proved himself a sincere friend to this work was that Mr. Hicks should go to England and personally interview the Army and Navy Committee. By the assistance of friends and a large amount of self-sacrifice on his own part he managed to get there, fully stated the needs and claims of the work to the Committee and many prominent officials of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference,

with the result that it was unanimously decided to place Esquimalt on the list of stations to be assisted from the Twentieth Century Fund; he was also, thanks to their kind assistance, enabled to raise £400 towards the scheme, and in various other ways to place the army and navy work here upon a more satisfactory footing.

During Rev. Mr. Hicks' absence an acre of land was bonded; this has since been paid for, it is in a most suitable position on the main road to Victoria about midway between the Barracks and the place where the sailors land from the ships.

After carefully studying the matter from all its standpoints and consulting many who frequent these Homes in England, the accompanying plans have been proposed, the cost of which it is estimated will be \$6,000. Toward this amount the Methodist of B. C. and all who feel interested in the welfare of our Soldiers and Sailors are asked to contribute \$2,000 at least as British Columbia's share, as much more as you like.

It is most desirable that this work should be completed this summer, but it is unanimously agreed not to go into debt, we want the money practically secured before starting to build. Christian work among and for the men is seriously handicapped for the want of suitable premises apart from the great need of the Home for their use.

Very great interest has been manifested in this work by those who have been made acquainted with its merits and we feel sure that this appeal will meet with a ready response from the numerous readers of the Methodist Recorder and their friends.

F. J. BAILEY,
Esquimalt, B. C.

REV. J. C. SPEER.

The general regret at the prospect of losing from the Conference the Rev. J. C. Speer, who is soon to return to Toronto, has already begun to find significant expression. On Saturday, April 20th, his ministerial brethren in Victoria invited him to a complimentary luncheon in the Victoria Cafe, Fort street. The party consisted of Revs. J. C. Speer, C. Bryant, W. H. Barracough, J. P. Hicks, J. D. P. Knox, R. Hughes and W. Gibson—Bro. Speer and our venerable Bro. Bryant being guests. After the ample meal Bro. Hughes adroitly decoyed the innocent party over the James Bay bridge to the pretty lawn at the residence of D. Spencer, Esq., where a camera was found in waiting, and in a few minutes, with expressions grave and gay, a photograph of the group was taken. All this being accomplished without serious consequences, the programme of the occasion was terminated by an hour's cruise "up the Gorge" in a naphtha launch. The whole course being well enlivened by the innocent story-telling for which Methodist preachers have gained a reputation.

On Tuesday evening, the 24th, a farewell tea meeting was arranged by the ladies of the Metropolitan church, under the cautious title "The Wars of the Roses." The tables were decorated alternately with white and red roses, also the ladies who served them, and there was a pleasant rivalry as to which table could do most to show hospitality to the friends gathered together. After tea a most interesting meeting was held in the church, presided over by Rev. O.

Bryant. On the platform with the chairman sat Mr. Speer and ministers representing nearly all the non-conformist denominations in the city. Rev. Mr. Hastings (Baptist), Rev. W. J. Clay (Presbyterian), Rev. Fred. Payne (Congregationalist), spoke on behalf of their churches and the Ministerial Association, paying high tribute to Mr. Speer's ability and expressing regret at his departure, while even deeper feelings of affection were conveyed in a few words from the other Methodist ministers present. Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Speer were also recipients of tangible proofs of the love the congregation they had served, the Ladies' Aid presented Mrs. Speer with a beautiful silver teapot, inscribed. Miss Speer's very pretty gift was from the Epworth League and Sunday School, while Mr. Speer received presents from both the Intermediate League and the Sunday School. Each gift was accompanied with a suitable and affectionately worded address, that from the Intermediate League being illuminated. These expressions were feelingly and felicitously acknowledged in a brief speech by Bro. Speer, and the gathering dispersed about 10:30 p.m. Mr. Speer has shown distinguished ability as a preacher and lecturer and social reformer, and has gained the esteem and confidence of his brethren in the capacity of Chairman of the Victoria District. He will also be much missed in his intimate association with the Recorder, and all good wishes will follow him.

• • •

Three typographical errors crept into Mr. F. L. Vosper's interesting article, "The Reclaimed Infidel," which we published last month, namely: The word "Chartist" appeared instead of "Chartist"; the word "sobriety" appeared instead of "society"; the word "dreaded" appeared instead of "dread".

GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT AT METROPOLITAN.

A large audience was richly entertained in the Metropolitan Church on Good Friday evening while listening to the rendition of Dr. John Farmer's lovely oratorio, "Christ and His Soldiers." The performance was given by the choir of the Church, largely augmented by vocalists from the other Methodist Churches, comprising a chorus of about seventy-five voices, and assisted by a most efficient orchestra, led by Mr. Jessie Longfield, the solos being very creditably taken by Mrs. Giffin, Miss Armonson, Messrs. Hanson, Firth and J. G. Brown. Mr. Gideon Hicks, who conducted, appeared thoroughly at home in that capacity; he had evidently well drilled his performers, and handled them with such skill that the whole performance was one of real merit. There were weaknesses, certainly, chiefly noticeable in the matter of shading and attack, but these were easily forgotten in the general excellency which characterized the affair. The soloists are all well-known, and beyond the mention of their names the public will look for no assurance that the solos were well cared for. One pleasant feature of the affair was the cordiality apparent among the musicians of the various Churches. Mr. Longfield is organist of St. John Anglican Church, and several others taking part are Episcopians, while Mr. J. G. Brown is the popular choir leader of the First Presbyterian Church.