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Toronto, August 23, 1894.

A Notable Centenary.

A MILE-STONE in the history of Presbyterianism in Upper Canada was passed on Sabbath last when the centenary of St. Andrew's church, Niagara-on-the-Lake was solemnly celebrated. One hundred years have passed since the congregation of St. Andrew's was formed in Newark, as Niagara-on-the-Lake was then called, during which period, how great have been the developments in the church! nay in Presbyterianism all over the world. A history of Presbyterianism in the nineteenth century would make interesting and suggestive reading to all who mark the transition of thought in its modern rapidity. But on a smaller scale, though after all not so small as might be supposed, the centenary of this congregation carries with it much interest to Presbyterians. The event was fittingly celebrated. On Saturday an inaugural ceremony took place which was attended by a large crowd, and many notable persons, among them being Sir Oliver Mowat, Rev. Professor Gregg, D.D., Rev. Professor J. B. Mowat, D.D., and Hon. J. Beverley Robinson, ex-Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the memorial tablet was unveiled by Rev. Prof. Mowat, a former pastor of the congregation. On the tablet is this appropriate inscription:—"1794-1894; in grateful commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the organization of this congregation, this tablet is erected by the members of St. Andrew's church, Niagara. The first building being erected in 1794, and erected on this spot, was burned in the war of 1812-14. The congregation met in St. Andrew's school-room, on the north corner of this block, for some years. The present church was built in 1831. The ministers have been:—Rev. John Dun, Rev. John Young, Rev. John Burns, Rev. Thomas Fraser, Rev. Robt. McGill, D.D., Rev. John Cruickshank, D.D., Rev. John B. Mowat, D.D., Rev. Charles Campbell, Rev. William Cleland, Rev. J. W. Bell, M.A., and the present pastor, Rev. N. Smith."

Then followed the reading by Rev. J. W. Bell, M.A., of Newmarket, a former pastor, of a paper by Miss Janet Carnochan, the well known local historian, giving the history of the parish since its commencement, from which a few outstanding facts are culled. The first document referred to, related to an agreement between the congregation and Rev. John Dun, their first pastor, whose death by drowning in the barque Speedy is recorded in Dr. Gregg's history. A curious fact noted by Miss Carnochan in connection with Rev. John Young, the next pastor, was that in 1791, when

pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Montreal, he administered the sacrament to his congregation in the church of the Roman Catholic Recollet fathers, which was kindly lent to them while their own was being built. A present of two hogsheads of Spanish wine and a box of candles was all the compensation which the polite French fathers would accept. The church was destroyed when Niagara was burned by the Americans in 1813, and the congregation subsequently obtained four thousand pounds compensation from the Government, on the ground that officers used the steeple as the post from which they used to reconnoitre. In 1826 a Sunday school was formed with Mr. John Crooks as Superintendent, and this Mr. Crooks was the first person buried in the new burying ground in 1831, St. Mark's burying ground having been used up to that time. In 1829 Rev. Dr. McGill became pastor. By the condition of the law he could not perform the ceremony of marriage, and on the repeal of that almost the first person he married was Hon. Archibald McKellar, who years before had been a pupil at the Niagara Grammar School, taught by Dr. Whitelaw. In 1843 the disruption in Scotland took effect in Canada, and a number of members of the congregation seceded to form a free church, meeting at first in the Temperance Hall and afterwards building the edifice now used by the Methodists. The pastors of the Free Church were Rev. John Harris, Rev. John Alexander, Rev. F. McCuaig, Rev. Dr. McCaul, the President of Toronto University, was the last to preach in the Free Church pulpit before the re-union of 1875. By a curious coincidence, Rev. Prof. Mowat, who became pastor in 1850, married the daughter of Rev. Dr. McGill, the lady who had been born in the manse, thus coming back to it as mistress. The paper concluded with the remark that of the eleven pastors of the church, seven have been natives of Scotland, one of Ireland, one of England and two of Canada.

Sir Oliver Mowat's paper was reminiscent in the main, but the premier touched on topics of living interest to-day such as the various agencies connected with church work and the influences moving towards church unity. The following passage is well worth perusal:—"But while there has been throughout the world exceptional progress in the respects I have referred to, (material progress) it is fitting on an occasion like the present to remember that, happily, progress has not been less as regards the appliances of philanthropy and charity than as regards other matters, and not less as regards the Christian religion generally, which is the greatest spring of philanthropy and charity. If there has been, or if there seems to have been, more of avowed agnosticism and infidelity than in some former centuries, there has, at the same time, been more of religious life and activity; and the certain facts show that these have increased in an immensely greater ratio than agnosticism and infidelity. Thus, the Christian population of the world a century ago is estimated to have been less than 200,000,000; its Christian population now is estimated at more than double that number. It took eighteen centuries for the Christian population of the world to reach 200,000,000; it has taken but this one century to add another 200,000,000 or more to the number. There has been like increase in the contributions to religious objects throughout the countries of the world generally, a very good indication