

Rev. Dr. Wardrope's Golden Jubilee.

An interesting and decidedly unusual celebration was held in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on Tuesday, Aug. 13th. It was the golden jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of Rev. Dr. Wardrope's ordination to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. It was a



REV. THOMAS WARDROPE, D.D.

memorable occasion, not only in the life of the worthy minister of God, but in the annals of Presbyterianism in Guelph.

Were Dr. Wardrope an ordinary man the event would have been regarded as important. But Dr. Wardrope is no ordinary man, and so, added to the enthusiastic admiration for the venerable and devoted father of the Church, was the deeply abiding reverence and affection for the humble and kindly man whose life, adorned by many noble virtues, had been to his people as an open book. Everywhere and by everyone, Dr. Wardrope is beloved and esteemed. The cause of his popularity lies largely in his humility and greatness of heart. No distinction did he ever make in his heaven-directed ministrations among the people. The poor and unfortunate, cheered and consoled by his kindly words, know him better and love him more dearly than do those whose lives are lived in the sunshine of prosperity. No wonder then that from all over the country there came messages of congratulation to the good doctor on the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of that day when in the valley of the Ottawa he took on the armour of the Lord and went forth to preach the gospel of peace and salvation.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Dr. Wardrope was born in Ladykirk, Berwickshire, Scotland, in 1819. His father was master of the parish school and a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church. He frequently did ministerial work, but was never regularly settled as a pastor. In 1834 the family moved to Canada, and settled near Guelph, subsequently removing to Freeilton. Dr. Wardrope was a member of the first class of students who attended Queen's College, Kingston, and it is interesting to note that when he first went to Kingston to commence his studies his father drove him from Freeilton in a waggon. During his collegiate course Dr. Wardrope was engaged as a teacher and student missionary. Before he graduated the disruption in the Church took place and Dr. Wardrope completed his theological studies under the supervision of the Free Church, and was the first minister ordained in that Church in Canada. This was on Aug. 13th, 1815, just 50 years ago, and from that time until two years ago he was actively engaged in ministerial work. Previous to his ordination he had been head-master of the High School at Bytown, and the congregation of the Daly street church waited until his ordination in order that he might assume the pastorate of their church. In this capacity his success was very great, and with all classes and creeds he became very popular. After a pastorate of 24 years, Dr. Wardrope, in 1869, accepted a call to Chalmers' Church, Guelph, then in its infancy, and of this he was, until two years ago, the beloved and honored pastor. To every member of his congregation he stood in the relation of a friend, as well as that of a spiritual guide and counsellor; by every member of the community he is looked up to as an absolutely good and true man. Two years ago, feeling the effects of advancing age, Dr. Wardrope resigned his pastorate to the unqualified regret of the congregation, then grown, largely through his efforts, into one of the strongest and most influential in the city. Though he retired from the active pastorate of the church, the congregation insisted on making him a liberal allowance and he is still connected with the church, very materially contributing to its welfare by conducting cottage meetings and generally aiding in the pastoral work.

THE SERVICE.

The jubilee services commenced in Chalmers' Church at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the presence of a large congregation. Rev. Dr. Rao, Acting Moderator of the Presbytery, presided, and there was a number of visiting clergymen of the Presbyterian Church in other cities, and of other churches in Guelph, among them being Revs. Dr. McLaren and R. P. MacKay, of Toronto; Dr. Smith of Port Hope; Dr. Bennett of Ottawa; Ven. Archdeacon Dixon, Dr. Hentzen, J. Perry, Mr. Savage and J. Hough, of Guelph. After the formal constitution of the Presbytery and the report of the Committee on Arrangements, Rev. Dr. Torrance preached a forcible sermon on the text, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God."

Dr. Torrance, though his remarks were necessarily brief, outlined the character and life of an ideal minister of the Gospel, and

when his word picture was completed, those who know Dr. Wardrope felt that though Dr. Torrance's picture was purely an ideal one, its points of resemblance to the life and character of the revered clergyman whose jubilee was being celebrated, were striking and significant. Dr. Torrance in closing his sermon, appropriately quoted the verses from Timothy:—"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Rev. Mr. Rao, in delivering his Moderator's address, referred to the special fitness of Rev. Dr. Torrance to deliver the jubilee sermon, owing to the long and close friendship between him and Dr. Wardrope. He pointed out how exactly the graces and abilities mentioned in Dr. Torrance's sermon, as being requisite in the perfect minister of the Gospel, coincided with those of Dr. Wardrope. Dr. Wardrope, he said, ever wielded a shining sword, polished and jewelled at the hilt. Even in his ordinary conversation his words were ever seasoned with grace and gave evidence of perfect familiarity with the Word of God. "Why," he said, "it was pleasant to be reproved by Dr. Wardrope." His generosity, his power of attracting others to him, his pure and high life giving forth an effluence to rather than exerting an influence over others, leading them to a higher spiritual life. These were some of the qualities which had led to the wonderful success of Dr. Wardrope's ministry. The doctor's life will be described as one of the most beautiful manifestations of Christian character.

Lindsay's New Pastor.

At 8 o'clock on the morning of Aug. 8th, a number of friends assembled to say farewell to Rev. J. W. Macmillan, B.A., and wish him Godspeed and happiness in his new home in the far east. He will go by way of San Francisco, stopping at places of interest, and expects to arrive in about three weeks at Lindsay, Ont., where he has been called to take charge of the large Presbyterian church. His departure causes our minds to revert to a period, which viewed by a Vancouverite, seems a long time, nearly four years ago, when a stranger arrived in this city. He was young, tall, robust, and energetic; he had a genial laugh, a winning manner, and an almost exhaustless store of anecdotes through which his witticisms sparkled; he was benevolent, charitable, and full of faith; a man of strong convictions, an earnest Christian, spoke with impressive eloquence, and was withal pleasantly unconscious of these and many other of his good qualities. He went to Mount Pleasant. A feeble mission was struggling in embryonic infancy and those who were watching it feared its existence would soon cease. The stranger imbued it with his zeal. It thrived. It increased with a rapidity marvellous even to a Vancouverite. Mount Pleasant Presbyterian mission became a self-supporting church. A place of worship was erected. This building was soon inadequate. An addition was made and now stands free of debt with a membership roll of nearly 200, a Sunday school second to none in Vancouver, an enthusiastic prayer meeting, and six or more societies working in conjunction with the church. It is not needful to name that stranger. But Mr. Macmillan is no longer a stranger. His more than ordinary ability, his companionable disposition, and his manly character have made him friends wherever he went. Whether hunting in the interior, climbing the peaks of the coast range, or breaking records by throwing the shoulder weight in Alberni; whether delivering a lecture for some order, or preaching in a neighboring pulpit, he was admired and respected, while at home in his own Church on Mount Pleasant he was loved. This was shown by the crowds who flocked to hear him preach; by the whole-heartedness with which all his congregation worked with him during these four years harmoniously; by their private conversations, and by their earnest pleadings before the Presbytery to persuade him to remain when the question of his call to Lindsay was discussed. It is not to be wondered that Mr. Macmillan hesitated, hoping to see it his duty to remain with friends to whom he had become so greatly attached and we admire the character that could say he would because it was his duty, despite the fact that he was leaving friends for strangers, and loving looks for critical stares. We wish him the success he deserves and, though



REV. J. W. MACMILLAN, VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver loses for a time one whom she is proud to have been benefitted by, she hopes that he may some day return in the by no means distant future and remain. Success and happiness to him in the meantime and forever!—Vancouver World.