

# METHODIST RECORDER.

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## \* Editorial. \*

### Rev. Joseph Hall.

"My boast is not that I derive my birth  
From thrones enthroned, from rulers of the  
earth;  
Higher far my proud pretensions rise,  
A son of parents passed into the skies."

A pioneer himself in the Methodism of British Columbia, Rev. Joseph Hall was the descendant of one of the pioneer families of Ontario. His parents came from Lincolnshire, England, in 1834, and took up their residence in the southern part of the county of Wentworth, at what afterwards became known as Hall's Corners, so named from the family who had braved the forest primeval, and the dangers associated with early settlements from wild animals and sometimes wilder men, to build up a home for themselves and their children.

In the wake of the hardy pioneer came the Methodist itinerant, who sought out every opportunity to proclaim the gospel of salvation, in the open, or in the kitchens of the old log houses, and later in the district school house at the four corners.

Under the influence of a godly parentage and the preaching of these early fathers of the church, the subject of our sketch was brought to a saving knowledge of the truth, and after some years of training in Victoria College, Cobourg, he entered the Methodist ministry in 1860.

The earnest appeals on behalf of the work in the West led him to volunteer, and in 1871 he came to British Columbia, having completed his probation in that year, and having been ordained to the Christian ministry by the late Dr. Punshon, in the Bridge Street church, Belleville, Ontario.

His first appointment was to Cariboo, the famous mining district of the province, whose most golden days were then past. His predecessor being the now long-sainted Thomas Derrick.

The circuits in British Columbia even then were few. British Columbia district was ranked in the minutes of the Wesleyan Conference as a missionary district with the Red River and Saskatchewan districts.

The British Columbia contingent then consisted of the following ministers: William Pollard, A. E. Russ, M.A., Thomas Derrick, Cornelius Bryant, Thomas Cross-

by and Joseph Hall six men, now we have over sixty.

Twenty-eight years of successful labor in the province of his adoption have since followed; in which time he has filled appointments at Nanaimo, Sumas and Chilliwack, again at Nanaimo, returning to Chilliwack; at Burrard Inlet, which in his time became Vancouver, and where he suffered with others in the youthful city's "baptism of fire;" from thence a third time to Nanaimo; then followed Mount Pleasant, Vancouver; Centennial, Victoria; Ladner until he was finally chosen to occupy the honorable and responsible position of Principal of the Coqualeetza Institute, Chilliwack.

His ability as a pulpit speaker is very generally recognized and he has been honored through these years with nearly all the offices in the gift of his brethren. Twice secretary of the British Columbia Conference, the first two years of its existence; twice president of Conference,

and twice he has been elected a member of the General Conference. He has been several years chairman of districts, also on the directorate of the Columbian Methodist College from the beginning, and two or three times president of the board, while also appointed a member of the recently constituted senate of the college.

He has always been a most energetic worker, and his business adaptability and thorough knowledge of book keeping, together with his shrewd understanding of human nature, eminently fit him for the office he now occupies.

He has been supported through the years by the faith and affection of a most devoted wife, who is a daughter of the sainted William Pollard.

Bro. Hall is, perhaps, somewhat slow to make intimate friends, but those who know his inner character have found in him a friend sincere and faithful.



REV. JOSEPH HALL, CHAIRMAN OF WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

W.H.C.