

THE OLDEST COLONY.

We have much pleasure in calling special attention to the interesting articles begun in this number, by the Rev. George Bond, B.A., editor of the *Halifax Wesleyan*. Mr. Bond is a native of Newfoundland, was for many years in its ministry, and was, we think, a president of its Conference. He is an enthusiastic lover of the "oldest colony," and in his story of "Skipper George Netman" and other Newfoundland sketches, has portrayed the characteristics of Newfoundland Methodism with a skill not less than that of Mark Guy Pearse in his famous Cornish sketches.

We are glad to know that Brother Bond exchanges residences with Dr. Courtice of the *Guardian* for a couple of months during the summer. We are confident that this exchange will be very pleasant to both these brethren. We wish that similar exchanges between east and west could be more frequent. We believe it would be highly beneficial to the Methodist constituencies in both parts of the Dominion.

The Honourable Robert Bond, Premier of Newfoundland, is a brother of the Rev. George Bond. He was elected to the Newfoundland Assembly in 1882, became Speaker of that body in 1885, Colonial Secretary in 1889, and has taken a very active part in the political history of his native colony.

DR. ALEXANDER BURNS.

There was something peculiarly magnetic about the character of Dr. Alexander Burns. He grappled to his heart his friends with hooks of steel, and a great, warm, large, loving, liberal heart it was. But a few weeks before his death he strongly urged upon the 'Toronto Ministers' Meeting the sorrows and needs of our famine-stricken fellow-subjects of this great Empire in India. The appeal of suffering humanity never reached his ears without calling forth a warm response.

He combined in remarkable degree the three-fold excellences described by Bacon of a full, ready, and exact man. But the affluence of his intellectual resources, rich and rare as it was, was less valuable than his moral qualities. The sterling manhood of the man, his scorn of all things low and mean, his love of all things high and noble, his intense enthusiasm for the good that needs assistance, his stern battle with the wrong that needs resistance, his devotion to everything, social, moral, political, economic and religious,



THE LATE REV. ALEX. BURNS, D.D.

that promotes the betterment and uplifting of mankind,—these are the highest claim to our deep and strong and tender love. Even his failings—for he was human, and not infallible—were but the results, we believe, of his impulsive and warm-hearted enthusiasm.

THE REV. JOSEPH EDGE.

It is seldom that a Conference President dies during the year of his office. He seems to be so undergirded and upheld by the prayers and sympathies of his brethren as to be made immune and invulnerable till his official work is done. And so, in fact, it was in the case of our Brother Edge also. The round of duty was well-nigh complete when the Master said, "It is enough; come up higher."

Brother Edge, though summoned from labour to reward at the comparatively early age of forty-eight, had, nevertheless, been honoured with many positions of trust and confidence in the Church which he so faithfully served. His Christian character, his intense devotion to duty made his services invaluable. The pulpit was his throne of power. His sermons were earnest expositions of the Word of God, which had a grip upon the conscience, and could not fail to affect the life.

Thank God, as the world becomes poorer by the removal of these comrades in arms, the heavens become richer, the unseen is made more real to our faith. It is not something vague, far-off, indis-