

Presbyterians, are merged in the Central University; a number of Chairs in Dalhousie being now supported by the Church. In these schools, academies, and in the university, the youth of both sexes receive that general and higher education which fits them to occupy their positions during life. From 1603, when the Huguenot De Monts was appointed first Governor of Acadia, down to the present time, Presbyterians have occupied the highest positions in the land—and, as in other countries, Presbyterians are well to the front in commercial and charitable enterprises. The Presbyterian Theological Hall at Halifax has three professors and several lecturers. Seventeen students are now in attendance, but this by no means represents the number studying for the ministry, as many of our young men are pursuing their studies in Divinity at Queen's University, Kingston, and at Princetown College, New Jersey.

Since the establishment of the Augmentation fund all Presbyterian ministers in these provinces are guaranteed a salary of \$750, (one hundred and fifty-four pounds). The religious press in the Maritime Provinces is most active in disseminating news respecting Church affairs. The *Presbyterian Witness* of Halifax in this respect is worthy of special mention. The *Church Record*, published in Montreal, and the *Maritime Record*, are widely circulated and are doing good work. Presbyterians coming to this country will meet with a hearty welcome from their brethren. In almost every town and village the Presbyterian Churches with their tall spires may be seen. In these the services are conducted according to the time-honored custom of the Church, so that the emigrant and his family in this respect would scarce realize that they had left the land of the broom and heather.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The Methodist Church in Canada is the result of a union of all the branches of Methodism formerly existing in the country. The old Wesleyan body united in 1874 with the New Connection Methodist Church. In the year 1882 a further union was consummated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Primitive Methodists and the Bible Christian Methodists. This United Methodism forms the largest Protestant body in the Dominion, numbering in all, according to the last census, about 740,000.

The denomination in the Maritime Provinces is not so numerous in proportion to the population as in other parts of the Dominion, nevertheless the membership of the Church is steadily increasing, at the present time numbering 98,000. In the three provinces, there are at the present time 205 ministers and preachers on trial carrying on the Christian work, according to the plan and method laid down by Wesley.

The Methodist educational institutions at Sackville, N. B., were founded by the liberality of the late Charles F. Allison of that place, and are named "The Mount Allison College and Academies," in honor of their founder. The buildings comprise the new stone College building, and two large Academies, one for boys and one for girls; also a boarding hall for College students, and an assembly hall or chapel. The College possesses the right by charter to confer degrees in Arts and Theology, and was the first institution of the kind in the Maritime Provinces to open its halls to young ladies. Many of her graduates and Alumni are now occupying useful and honorable positions in the country.

The Methodist Church in Nova Scotia and the neighboring provinces, was the first to make provision for aged or disabled ministers, and for the wives of deceased ministers. Its very successful efforts in this direction have been followed by all the other churches of the country. Its Educational Fund aims to assist in the maintenance of the several Methodist colleges in the Dominion, and in the encouragement of young men preparing for the ministry.

The Book Room, situated in Halifax, was opened many years ago, for the diffusion of Methodist and general literature of a moral and religious tone.

The *Wesleyan*, the organ of the Methodist Church in the Maritime Provinces, has been published since 1849, and has very effectively aided the Church by the diffusion of intelligence respecting its work and by the support of the schemes from time to time brought forward. Its existence has now become indispensable to the growth and prosperity of the Church.

The manager of the Book Room, and the editor of the *Wesleyan* are both ministers, elected at the General Conference.

The circuits and preaching places are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land, and there are few if any sections where it would be possible for a Methodist settler to be deprived of the means of grace furnished by his own Church.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptists are numerically stronger in the Maritime Provinces than in any other section of Canada. According to the last census, the Baptists in the Dominion numbered 296,000, while those in the Lower Province numbered 170,000. Of these, 128,000 are members or adherents of the regular Baptist church, and 42,000 of the Free-will Baptist church. The regular Baptists are divided into six associations, three in Nova Scotia, two in New Brunswick, and one in Prince Edward Island, in addition to which there is, in the first Province named, an association of African Baptists. The spiritual needs of the people are provided for by 193 zealous ministers; in fact, since the establishment of the first Baptist church at Horton, 1779, the denomination has steadily grown. As a denomination, the Baptists make special provision for educating their youth. The Baptist Seminary at St. John, N. B., transferred thither in 1884, has a staff of seven instructors, and a good attendance. The Maritime Baptists also own and control three

institutions at Wolfville, N. S. The total number of students in the Young Ladies' Seminary and in the Academy and College is about 200, 80 of whom are taking the Arts course in Acadia College, which has a staff of six Professors. In this country, Baptists are found in every walk of life, and among the members and adherents of the church are included some of our most enterprising ship-builders, bankers, and most successful politicians. The regular Baptists have for their Theological school, in connection with the rest of their brethren of the Dominion, Toronto Baptist College, Toronto, Ont., one of the best equipped Theological schools on the continent. This college was handsomely endowed by Hon. Senator McMaster, to whom the Baptists of Canada owe a debt of gratitude. Besides these larger efforts of the denomination, there is the Baptist Book and Tract Society, for the distribution of religious literature, located in Halifax, N. S., and the Maritime Baptist Publication Society, which publishes the *Messenger and Visitor*, a weekly paper which is justly considered one of the best religious journals published in the Maritime Provinces. The Baptists of these Provinces are a self-reliant body of people. The high standing of the church to-day is the direct result of the zealous efforts of its ministers and members. Without aid from abroad, churches have been built in every locality, the salaries of the ministers paid, and the maintenance of the educational institutions provided for. If Baptists in Great Britain are seeking a field for emigration, they cannot do better than throw in their lot with their brethren in this country. Here they will find that the opportunities for obtaining an honest livelihood are exceptionally good, and here they can educate their children and have them trained in those cardinal principles of belief, baptism and unswerving loyalty to the teachings of the Bible, which Baptists everywhere hold so dear.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In the Maritime Provinces the population is somewhat less than 1,000,000, about 300,000 of whom profess the Roman Catholic faith. Those of Scottish descent are most numerous, being about 140,000. The Irish, French, English, Germans and Belgians, stand numerically as in order. Religious discord is virtually unknown, the very best feeling existing between pastors and people and the members of other denominations.

To minister to these 300,000 Catholics, there are one archbishop, four bishops, and one hundred and seventy-five priests, most of whom are natives. Several have taken degrees in the College of the Propaganda.

Rev. Cornelius O'Brien, Archbishop of Halifax, who is a native of Prince Edward Island, is a Propagandist, a man of scholarly attainments and literary ability. "The Philosophy of the Bible vindicated," "Mater Admirabilis," and "After Weary Years," are three publications of which he is the author. Another Propagandist is the Right Rev. John Cameron, a native of Antigonish County, N. S., now Bishop of Arichat, who enjoys the esteem of all denominations and who has more than once been chosen by the Holy See to act as Papal Legate. One of his former priests, Right Rev. Dr. McDonald, is now Bishop of Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. Of the three colleges in connection with the Church, that at Memramcook, N. B., has the largest attendance, its students numbering from 180 to 220, but the work done is of an elementary character. Much more advanced work is carried on at St. Francis Xavier College, Antigonish, N. S., the students numbering from 45 to 70. Many of its graduates hold high professional positions in the provinces, two of its Alumni being in the Episcopate. St. Dunstan's College, situated at Charlottetown, is quietly doing useful work in Prince Edward Island, the attendance varying from 20 to 40.

The Institutions for the higher education of young ladies are numerous and well sustained. Among the foremost are "the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross," at Memramcook, "the Convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart," at Halifax, the highly efficient Academy of "Mount St. Vincent," four miles from Halifax, and those of the Ladies of Notre Dame at Charlottetown and Souris, P. E. I., Pictou, Antigonish, Arichat and Sydney, N. S. In addition to these are a number of convent schools established in various localities.

In a quiet, secluded valley in Antigonish is the monastery of the Trappist Monks, who number 48, most of them being Belgians. English, Scotch and Irish Catholics, will find in these Provinces by the sea a home in which they can enjoy all the privileges that it is possible for their blessed Mother Church to bestow upon them.

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