

Several of our ministerial brethren have suffered bereavement. The father of the Rev. Dr. Courtice, editor of the *Guardian*, early in the month was called home. He was for many years a prominent member of the Bible Christian Church and a strong friend of the Union Movement. He was a fine type of the lay workers who have contributed so much to the strength of Methodism. He was for many years a useful local preacher, Sunday-school superintendent and class-leader.

The venerable father of the Rev. Dr. Chambers, of this city, has also passed away. He had attained the ripe age of eighty-eight years, and for some years resided with his son, whose privilege it was to minister to his infirmities in his declining years. He came to this country when a youth, and in the old Richmond Street Church was converted to God over fifty years ago. He was a man with strong convictions, believing in God's plan through the individual in extending His kingdom in the world, was of kindly disposition and high honour. He helped to plant Methodism in Northern Ontario, especially at Wilfrid, where he acted as class-leader and steward. He was buried in the family plot at Wilfrid on March 9th.

Rev. George Webber was also called to lose a promising son and the Rev. George G. Webber to lose a brother in the very dawn of his young manhood. A diligent student, a dutiful son, and one who sought to walk in the footsteps of his father, it was a severe pang to see him so early called away. These dispensations of God's providence make us realize more and more that we should work while it is called to-day.

D. B. Madden. The fathers, where are they? The pioneer pathfinders and early makers of Methodism in this land are fast passing away. One of the last survivors of the "thundering legion" was David Breakenridge Madden, who went from toil to triumph from his home at Prince Albert on March 8th. It was a rare treat to hear Brother Madden recount the triumphs of the Gospel in the early days of his ministry sixty years ago. To hear him preach and pray and exhort in an Indian camp-meeting was to recall the heroic days of Case and his contemporaries. Much of his life was spent in connection with Indian work at Rice Lake and Alnwick. Stalwart as he appeared and stentorian as was his voice,

yet nearly sixty years ago he was for a time laid aside through ill-health and for some years has been superannuated. Yet was he abundant in labours till growing infirmities prevented active service. He died at the venerable age of eighty-seven. Two of his sons are in the Methodist ministry.

Dr. Michael Lavell was one of the oldest Methodist officials of the country. He was a brother of the late Charles Lavell, M.A., one of the best-known ministers of our Connexion for nearly fifty years. They were both born in Quebec, their father being an officer in the British army. While a clerk in the Methodist Book Room at Toronto, young Michael Lavell was converted under the ministry of the Rev. James Caughey. He has been a member of each General Conference of our Church, and trustee of Sydenham church, Kingston, for forty years. He long served on the medical faculty of Queen's University, and was one of the Board of Regents of our own Victoria. He was for several years a Warden of the Provincial Penitentiary. The duties of this office he sought to administer in the highest interests of the convicts committed to his care. Having served his generation long and well he fell on sleep. His son is the Rev. A. E. Lavell, who, from his acquaintance with prison life, is specially devoted to prison reform.

The death of ex-President Harrison removes a conspicuous figure from public life. In 1888 he was elected President over his opponent, Mr. Cleveland, but in 1892 was defeated by that gentleman. Since his retirement to private life he has lived at Indianapolis, but has been still prominent in the councils of his country. He was a grandson of the first President Harrison, and trained in the best traditions of the Republican Party. He had just been appointed to the high dignity of member of the Hague Court of Arbitration. He was a fine example of the modesty with which a man who had been a ruler of a great nation, with more authority than almost any European sovereign, could step from his office to the retirement of private life.

"Friend after friend departs,
Who hath not lost a friend?"

Montgomery's words find their striking confirmation with every passing day. We can, of course, note in these pages only a few of those who are more or less representative persons.