

after, the young William devoted himself to the ministry of the Methodist Society, and became the father of Methodism in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, dying at Halifax in a good old age. The Methodist cause has continued from that time to the present, of late years increasing steadily. About 1819, Albert desBrisay, a young Methodist minister, stationed at Upper Maccan (Southampton), preached here once every third Sunday and formed a small class. He was succeeded by John Snowball, Matthew Richey, and other notable men. A meeting house stood for many years on the site of the present D. W. Douglas' property, and was moved to the corner of Maple Avenue seventeen years ago, since which time it has done duty as a Music Hall, but is now a dry goods store, etc. There was a small burying ground at this site. For many years this body has worshipped in a commodious edifice on Havelock Street.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CONGREGATION

Until of late years the Roman Catholic Congregation has been small, but with the growth of the town, many of that faith have settled here. The chapel was formerly in the R. C. Cemetery on the Highlands, but was removed to Church St., where it was the sanctuary until the present handsome structure was erected. Bishop Fraser was priest here about forty years ago, for a short time, and boarded with the late James McLaughlin, who lived opposite the old Baptist Mission House, in what is now Maple Avenue. This Body had up to 20 years ago, a monthly service; but for years there has been a resident priest and a regular Sunday service.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

was as a matter of course early on the ground. Rev. Mr. Eagleson was in charge of the mission at Fort Cumberland, and in one of the skirmishes that took place during what is known as Eddy's Rebellion, 1779-1777—Mr. E. was carried away to New England. He effected his escape, and returned and labored for a time. But there does not seem to have been a resident clergyman in Amherst until 1823. Previous to that date, the Baptisms, Marriages and Births, were recorded elsewhere, perhaps at St. Paul's, Halifax. Canon Townshend has given some interesting information as to the history of the Parish Church. Christ Church was erected in 1823. The foundation was on the County Court House ground, but was taken up and removed a mile below the town, to a site which is now the church yard. Canon Townshend, feeling the great inconvenience and disadvantage of this situation, applied to the Bishop for permission to pull down the church, and to re-build it. After persevering some time the Court of Session granted Mr. T.'s application for a site on the Court House ground. The Bishop refused to sanction this site, as he believed the sessions could not give a valid title. Finally Mr. Kniffin Purdy gave one-eighth of an acre, on which the church now stands. This building was opened for Divine service on Christmas day, 1842. At the laying of the corner stone the Chief Justice, Sir Brenton Halliburton, who was presiding in the Supreme Court at the time, officiated, and in his address stated that "on this very day fifty years ago, I marched through Amherst, in charge of a company of soldiers, en route for Halifax by the way of Parrsboro and Windsor."

The Rev. J. W. D. Gray officiated here, Feb. 1823, to Dec. 1827; Rev. Richard B. Wiggins Feb. 1828 to Sept. 1829; Rev. George S. Jarvis, Oct. 1829 to May 1830; among others he solemnized the marriage of the late R. K. and Mrs. Smith; Oct. 1830 to 1834 the Rev. R. B. Wiggins was again in charge. The Rev. George Townshend came to Amherst in 1834, and has held the office of rector since that time. After more than half-a-century's service Mr. T. retired from the active duties of the