

Miscellaneous.

CHURCH AT WESTPORT.

My last letter left us in Westport, where we remained till another week. Before we left, however, we assisted the brethren somewhat in making arrangements to secure the labors of Bro. H. E. Cooke, for about eight months of the year. Bro. Cooke will have begun his labor there before this reaches your readers. I believe this move a wise one, and feel very confident that both the church and Bro. Cooke will profit by the arrangement. Our stay in Westport during those five weeks was very enjoyable. True, there was much sickness and death while we were there, which made the heart sad; but there was so much that was pleasant, that our visit was indeed a happy one.

The church in Westport is now among our best working churches in this province. It has good officers, who are supported by brethren strong and true. I cannot, at this distance, remember the exact date of the organization of this church; but it must be now near 30 years. This church was organized by Bro. Geo. Garrity. But the first preacher who presented the "ancient order of things," as preached by the disciples, was our much respected Bro. Crawford, the editor-in-chief of our own sweet tempered paper.

Between thirty and forty years ago, Bro. Crawford, who, if I am not mistaken, was sent out as an evangelist, came to Digby County and preached the word of life to the people. In many parts of the county the people heard the gospel for the first time, so that they could understand it. Of course they had all heard much preaching, but such preaching as only tended to darken counsel. But when Bro. C. presented to them the simple gospel, in his own clear and forcible manner, the Bible was like a new book to many, and some even thought he had another Bible, and not the old one they had heard preached from these many years.

After preaching in different parts of the county, such as Weymouth, and at certain points on Digby Neck, he went to Long Island, and from that to Westport. It would take a volume to tell the story of this mission as it has been told me by Bro. Crawford, and by the brethren who still live, and well remember the stirring events of those days.

But during all this time, though Bro. C. preached considerably at Westport, there were none who were ready to come out and obey the truth. On Long Island a number had fully taken their stand on the "ancient order of things." But the seed sown was taking root. The work was developing, and the Lord was preparing the way for the establishing of a church in that town, to be called after His own name. A meeting house had been built which was to be open to all who preached Christ. This, too, grew out of the preaching of Bro. Crawford. A number of the people who had heard the gospel so plainly set forth, had broken loose from their old associations, and were studying the scriptures to "see if those things were true."

When things were in this condition, Bro. Geo. Garrity came to Westport, being sent out by a few brethren in Milton, who gave him a certain sum of money, and told him to go and labor where he thought he could do the most good. With this mission he came to Westport, and found a field already for the harvest. He began at once to preach the ancient gospel, and the people came to hear in goodly numbers. And all who have heard Bro. Garrity know how plainly he could present the truth. To this day I have never heard a man who, I thought, could present the gospel more forcibly, or more clearly. As a result of this meeting, quite a number were baptized, and with a number of those who had been already taught by

Bro. Crawford, organized a church, to be known as the Church of Christ in Westport.

Both Bro. Crawford and Bro. Garrity are held in loving memory by the older members of the church. Since this time this church has enjoyed the preaching of the most of our preaching brethren who have labored in these provinces. The first preacher to settle among these brethren was Bro. J. B. Knowles, this good Brother was there, I think, some four years, during which time quite a number were added to the saved. His health failing him he left and went to the States. But all who remember Bro. Knowles love him dearly.

Next followed Bro. J. A. Gates, who also did good work, and brought quite a number into the church. He labored there some three years, and left for his present field, Southville, respected and beloved by all.

The writer of this followed Bro. Gates, and labored with this church for fifteen years. During this time, if my memory is not at fault, between seventy and eighty were added to the church at Westport, and over one hundred at Tiverton. I would not be doing justice to even a sketch of the history of this church, were I to omit the name of Bro. Howard Murray. During all, or nearly all the years that I labored in those parts this brother to me very dear, has assisted me much. The many happy meetings we have held with the churches at Westport and Tiverton will never be forgotten. These were happy days. There is no man more beloved by the brethren on these islands, and whom they are more pleased to see and hear than Bro. H. Murray.

As I now look over this church and note the changes since I first knew them, feelings of sadness and also of joy take possession of me. Of sadness, because of the many whom I loved in the truth, who have passed away. Of joy, because I see a small army, most of whom came into the church under my poor labors, who are good and true, and who, with the encouragement of those who are older in the work, are destined to do grand work for the Master in Westport.

When I began this letter I intended to speak of our visit to Tiverton, on our return home, and also give an outline of the history of the church there. But I have taken so much space to say just a few of the things that might be said in the interest of the cause in those parts that I must leave what I have to say of Tiverton for my next letter. Suffice it to say at this time that though our visit to Tiverton was all too short, yet we enjoyed the association of the dear brethren very much, and left them feeling sadly, knowing, that even though our lives should be spared to visit the scenes of our joys and sorrows again, some to whom we spoke the good byes, will not be there. This was our experience in leaving both Westport and Tiverton.

I feel encouraged, though, for the future of these churches, Bro. DeVoe, who is much liked, being already settled in Tiverton, and doing a good work, and Bro. Cooke just about settling with the brethren in Westport under very favorable circumstances.

I wanted, too, to tell a little about Cornwallis; all about the hearty welcome the brethren gave us on our return home after an absence of six weeks. And about the company who met at our home the evening of our return; and of the many good things they brought. And about the cold and stormy night that prevented those from a distance coming, and how they have been bringing in their offerings ever since. But I have no room for all this, so will have to let it go. I wanted to tell, too, about a very pleasant visit we had up to Bro. Dwyer's, when the brethren, wishing to show him how much they enjoyed his preaching while I was away, and how glad they were I went away, so they could have the chance to enjoy it, presented him with some \$10 in cash, and other things which

are always acceptable in a family. And I wanted to tell, too, all about the nice little speech Bro. G. N. Wood made when he presented this offering from the brethren, and also about Bro. Dwyer's reply, etc. But you see, my space is more than taken up, so you must excuse me this time.

What I leave out I will try and remember in my next. Till then, adieu.

E. C. FORD.

Port Williams, Feb. 20, 1889.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

Since writing my last letter I have visited quite a number of churches. During the month of January I held a meeting of eight days in the church at Upper Rawdon. I enjoyed the company of Bro. John B. Wallace in those meetings, and, although we cannot report any additions, yet the meetings had a good effect on the brethren, and I am in hopes that the church here will keep up its regular Lord's day meetings: this it has not done for years. Bro. John B. Wallace has been faithful in his efforts to keep up the interest, and has visited them regularly every four weeks for a number of years, this is all that has kept the little band together. It is good for us to know that God will reward the patient workers in His vineyard. From here I went to Halifax, where I found that the brethren had made a change in the hall they had been meeting in. They are now meeting in the upper part of the Sons of Temperance hall, on Cornwallis street; this is the building formerly owned by our brethren. They have, for the past year, been meeting in the lower part of this building. The part they now occupy is large and spacious, beautifully furnished, and, I think, surpasses any other hall that I have ever known the church in Halifax to occupy.

The brethren are still holding their regular meetings, twice on Lord's day and on Wednesday evenings. Brethren visiting the city would do well to drop in and spend an hour with these faithful few. They would both receive and give encouragement. From Halifax I went to Cornwallis, having received a notice that the brethren were expecting me. I spent one Lord's here, day preaching twice. The congregations were small, especially in the evening.

I spent one Lord's day with the brethren in Newport, and was glad again to meet brethren whose faces were familiar, and grasp by the hand those whose hearts are warm and true. I also spent two Lord's days with the church at West Gore, those were pleasant days. Next Lord's day (24th), I expect to be in Shubenacadie. Quite a missionary spirit has been aroused in the churches in this county, and it is likely to take a practical turn, for the brethren seems anxious that there should be an evangelist in the county the year round, but more about this in my next.

W. H. HARDING.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

The afternoon and evening of Feb. 22nd, was very pleasantly spent at the residence of Bro. Alexander Campbell (tailor) near Montague, by many neighbors, friends and relatives of our brother above mentioned, and his amiable, beloved, and much respected (Sister) wife.

The occasion was the celebrating of the fiftieth anniversary (golden wedding) of their marriage.

It is well worthy of mention, that, after the trials and changing scenes of fifty years of married life, our brother and sister are in the enjoyment of perfect health, and enough of the material things of earth to prevent any anxiety about privations in old age. I do not know of any of whom I could write more confidently—They enjoy life.

While thanking God for present blessings, they live in anticipation of something "far better" which