

missionaries' winter work and travel in those high northern latitudes, for he travelled by dog train about 700 miles, often sleeping under the open sky with the thermometer registering 40 degrees below zero. As a result of this trip some misunderstandings were removed and arrangements made for building the comfortable and convenient Church and Parsonage now planted at Norway House. Materials were purchased and sent to the distant field from Winnipeg, and the work was accomplished during the following season.

During Mr. Betts' first year in Manitoba he was a member of the Toronto Conference, and was present at Winnipeg in 1883 at the organization of Manitoba and Northwest Conference, with Dr. George Young as president. And in 1888 he was elected a member of the General Conference, which settled the question of University Federation in Ontario.

Having been transferred to B. C. Conference in 1889, he was stationed at East End, Vancouver, where he made a remarkable record. In little over four months he had built Princess Street Church, and within twelve months had added to this Mount Pleasant Church and the Princess Street Parsonage, which is one of the best in the Conference. He remained at Princess Street four years, being Agent the fourth year for C. M. College, in the establishment and maintenance of which no one has given more devoted service. From Vancouver Bro. Betts removed to Kamloops, where as Chairman he did much for the extension of Methodism in that District. He next spent three successful years in Centennial Church, Victoria, whence he removed in 1898 to his present charge in New Westminster. His work in this field has been of exceptional difficulty, purely on account of a terrible and destructive fire which occurred in September, 1898, and swept up the whole business part of the city of New Westminster, and taking with it both the Central Church and Parsonage. Nothing daunted, however, the earnest pastor of a most devoted people faced the situation promptly and courageously, and succeeded in raising outside his congregation \$4,000 towards replacing the burnt property. The Church has been rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$10,000, and our friends will be pleased to see a cut of it in another page of this issue.

Brother Betts' high qualifications for the ministry are clearly enough indicated in what has already been written. It may further be added that during his ministerial life he has built seven Churches and two Parsonages, and in every Circuit he has travelled has had the joy of seeing conversions.

We can only refer to one other feature of his character, namely, the high esteem he has won from his Church. Few men have had so many honors. He has been Chairman of five Methodist Districts, Brandon and Winnipeg (in Manitoba), New Westminster, Kamloops and Victoria. He was once Secretary of Manitoba Conference, and has been twice President of B. C. Conference. Thrice was he a member of the General Conference, and four times has he served on the General Board of Missions.

J. P. H.

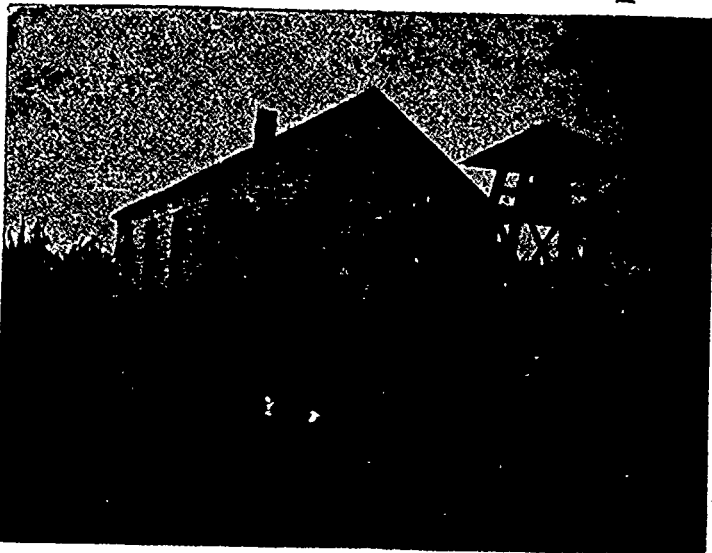
QUEEN'S AVENUE CHURCH, New Westminster, B. C.

The facts which constitute the frame work of the following historic sketch of this Church are gathered from a most interesting and instructive original paper read by Rev. E. Robson before a large and representative gathering of Methodist and other citizens, in Machinery Hall, Queen's Park, in this city on the occasion of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the landing of the first band of Methodist missionaries in B. C.

New Westminster was one of the earliest fields of occupation by the pioneer band of Methodist missionaries who ar-

just two months after his arrival in New Westminster, the missionary began the work of building a parsonage, the first in B. C., on lots donated for that purpose by the government. The first class on the mission was organized on Sunday, July 10th, with nine members; Mr. A. Calder was appointed leader. Sunday school was organized on December 5th, with four pupils besides the pastor's family. The first Communion service was held on January 1st, 1860, at which there were eight communicants.

On the 5th of the same month the foundation of the first church was laid. The building was 20x30 feet. It cost \$700, and was solemnly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God on the 8th of April, 1860.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN NEW WESTMINSTER, BUILT 1860.

rived in Victoria, Vancouver Island, on the 10th of February, 1859. Very shortly after the advent of these devoted men from Ontario the work of clearing away the heavy forests for the laying of the foundations of the new city began, and on Friday, April 1st, the Rev. E. White arrived in the embryo city, as yet but little more than a forest primeval. The day did not prove unlucky, however, although Friday, nor did the coming of that devoted man of God prove "a fool's errand." On Sunday the 3rd of April he preached his first sermon on his new field, at 11 o'clock in the morning. The service was held in the open air, and his congregation consisted of fifty men and one woman. Mrs. James Kennedy, still living and highly respected in the community.

On the 22nd of the same month Mr. White brought his family from Victoria, where they had resided since their arrival from Ontario, to their new home, and took up their residence in a rented room in a tent.

A room for purposes of public worship was shortly after secured in the new Colonial Treasury Buildings. In this room the first public temperance meeting in British Columbia, of which we have any record, was held by Mr. White on the 25th of May. On the 1st of June,

About this time, also, the foundation of our Chinese Mission in B. C. was laid in a night school opened by Mrs. White's younger sister, now Mrs. T. Cunningham, for the purpose of imparting to these interesting and needy people some knowledge of the English language, and especially of the heart-renewing and soul-saving truths of Christianity. On the 4th of September, 1860, a Quarterly Official Board was organized on the mission, and the work was finally and fully established.

The hallowed and hallowing presence of the Master was often realized in those early days of heroic toil, and all through the intervening years that Presence has remained with this church, manifested in the holy fire glowing upon her altars of prayer and in the ascending increase of her praise and love offered unto God through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. White remained in charge until 1863. Throughout the intervening years the following ministers have labored on the field: Revs. A. Browning, E. Robson, C. Bryant, A. Russ, with Rev. J. Turner (a colleague), Revs. Wm. Pollard, T. Derrick, C. Watson, J. H. White, S. J. Thompson, colleague of Rev. E. Robson during third term on the field; T. W. Hall, and J. F. Betts.

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