

to our ability as a Church to hold it. These coming to the ears of the late Mrs. Flemming Blanchard, the wife of an elder in the Presbyterian Church, she stated that sooner than the Conference should not be held in Truro, she would entertain nine of our ministers. This encouraged us to hold the Conference, and with the aid of Mrs. Blanchard's fine christian spirit upon other good people outside of our denomination, the first Conference in Truro was well entertained, without any household being overerowed with clerical guests.

This Church and Hall was also the scene of the fourth session of the Nova Scotia Conference of the Methodist Church, opened on Wednesday, June 15th, 1887, at 9 A. M., at which Revd. Roland Morton, one of the old pastors, who died September 8th, 1890, lead in prayer, and over which Revd. Joseph Gaetz was elected President, and Revd. A. D. Morton, M. A., re-elected Secretary. At this meeting of Conference in Truro, the Revd. E. B. Moore was appointed to this Circuit in place of Revd. R. A. Daniell, whose term had expired. Truro would also have been honoured by holding the Fourteenth Session of the Conference which met at Liverpool on the 17th of July last, had not the fire in the Church occurred. For being deprived of this great privilege, the next session of Conference will be held, D. V., in the newly enlarged Church and Hall, on the third Thursday in June, 1898. When the members who attended the first and second meeting of Conference here, witness the great changes that have been made in the church, in anticipation of their fifteenth session, they will better understand the meaning of the words of Ecclesiastes :—

"Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

My earliest recollection of this building goes back over four decades, and with it my first introduction to Hiram Hyde. This was before the days of Cobequid Hall opposite the north-west corner of the Common, the Y. M. C. A. Building, or Gunn's Opera House, and the timbers of the First Presbyterian Church, which then stood in the Truro Public Cemetery, had not been converted into the Temperance Hall, which for a time graced the east rear of *The Colchester Sun* Office. At this time there was a craze over a newly introduced burning oil from the Trinidad pitch lake of which Mr. Hyde was the promoter, that filled the public eye as largely as fine specimens of gold bearing quartz rock from the famous Tonquoy Gold Mine do to-day. Mr. Hyde was the hero of the hour, and he was invited to give a public address on his Trinidad coal oil, which he firmly considered was far in advance of the tallow candles and burning fluid, then in general use as illuminators, and which he believed would soon become an important factor in domestic economy, and knock the old-time lights higher than a kite. The address took place in this room on an evening of 1857, this time of year. The remarks of Mr. Hyde, who was then bubbling over with the great energy and vivacity which have stood by him all these years in so remarkable a degree, were most attractive and entertaining. To add to the interest of the occasion, the building was lighted with the veritable coal oil, in glass lamps such as are now used for refined kerosene. My recollection of the affair is—after looking back through the long vista of departed years—that the pitch-lake oil exhibited at this time was a most excellent sample of what would now be designated the darkest looking, worst smelling, and most horrible smoking crude Petroleum—such as was known to commerce before the modern refining processes were adopted. No doubt these inventions have since made a wonderful change in the quality of the Trinidad Pitch Lake Oil, verifying Mr. Hyde's predictions regarding the displacement of the old lights, which have been more than realised. At the close of the meeting Mr. Hyde was highly complimented by some persons present, for his great enterprise, one of whom was the Revd. Mr. McArthur, who compared him to Asher,

"Who had dipped his foot in oil and made himself acceptable to his brethren."

So far no detailed account of the use to which this old Hall was largely devoted during the past two decades—Sunday School work—has been given.