

Life and Works

Of John Wesley

BY REV. T. H. WRIGHT.

In the long line of the world's benefactors there is possibly no name more worthy of honor or deserving of commemoration than that of John Wesley, the founder under Providence of the Methodist Church.

His father had tried to get up the stairs to rescue him, but was driven back by the flames. A ladder was formed by one man standing on the shoulders of another, and young Wesley was saved just before the roof fell in.

The first organized form of Methodism was the United Society, established in 1729 in the disused foundry in Moorfields, which became the headquarters of Methodism until the City Road Chapel was built in 1778.



EPWORTH RECTORY, Where John Wesley was born, June 28, 1703.

and church polity. Wherever we look we notice that it is "monarchical enough for all wise authority, it honors the sovereign of England; republican enough, it thrives under the Stars and Stripes."

At the age of 15 years Wesley left home for the Charterhouse School, London, where he remained for three years, after which he entered Oxford University. In this university, the first in Europe, Wesley received that solid training in the Greek Classics, Hebrew and Latin.

John Wesley had been acting as his father's curate for a brief period, and in 1729 he returned to Oxford. His brother Charles had induced a number of students to observe with him weekly communion. The acceptance of John Wesley gave weight and character to this little society.

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At the age of 22 years he took his B. A. degree, and two months later was ordained a deacon by Bishop Sprat of Bromley, and he was able by his thrift and industry to save ten pounds during his college course.

His mission was a failure. A quarrel arose in Savannah among the school children. Those children who attended school with shoes and stockings on their feet despised and taunted those who had none.

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Methodism In British Columbia

BY REV. EBENEZER ROBSON.

ON Thursday, February 10, 1850, the steamer Pacific brought to Victoria the first Methodist missionaries for Vancouver Island and British Columbia, then two separate colonies.

The work of Methodism among the Indians of British Columbia had a very small beginning. The writer opened a mission school at Fort Hope in 1850, and instructed old and young in the elements of English and in religious truth.

Of churches there were at that time but two in the city—Christ church, on the hill, with Rev. Edward Gridley, colonial chaplain, as incumbent; and St. Andrew's, in Humboldt street, under the care of Rev. Dr. Demers, first bishop of the Roman Catholic denomination.

From His Excellency Governor Douglas permission was obtained to use an unfinished room in the court house which had just been erected, as a place of worship until better quarters could be secured.

Seven days after arrival in Victoria, Mr. Brown was detailed for duty in Kamaiyou, where he met a warm welcome from Dr. Benson, surgeon to the coal company, and others, especially Mr. Cornelius Ryan, a Wesleyan day school graduate from England, who had been in charge of the public school in the Black Diamond City for two years.

Under the influence of Mr. Brown's eloquence and zeal there was soon gathered a number of members very similar to those who originally crowded around Wesley when he began his evangelistic work in Kingswood in the Common.

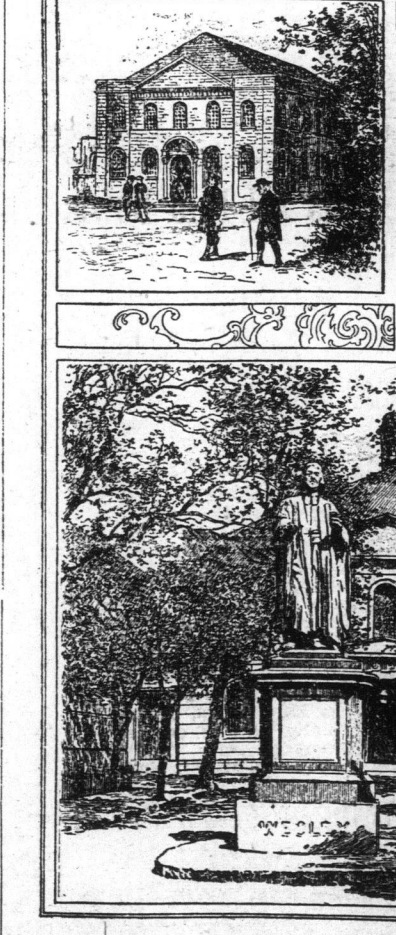
Mr. White took up his residence in the embryo city of Quesnora, now New Westminster, living with his family in one half of a cotton tent, and preaching first under the shade of a large spruce tree on the bank of the river.

Changes, of course, took place under Wesley's rule of itinerancy, the pioneer missionaries entering with each other in time to time, and thus the bounds of the original missions were enlarged and new ones created, so as to reach with the gospel the "regions beyond."

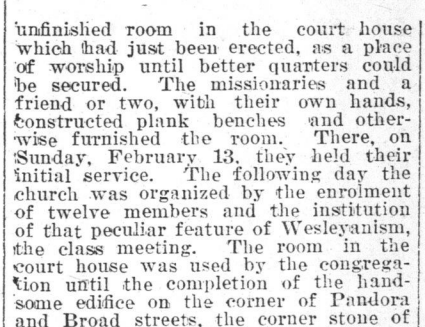
METROPOLITAN METHODIST CHURCH, VICTORIA, B. C. This rectory was a three-storied building of timber and plaster, with a thatched roof and containing many rooms. When John Wesley was a boy of six years of age, a fire broke out at midnight and spread with such rapidity that in fifteen minutes the time of the fire, the house was a smoking ruin.

accepting Christ by faith. On May 24, 1788, whilst listening to a layman reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, Wesley said: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ—Christ alone—for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away all my sin, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

It may be questioned whether any English writer of the last or present century has equalled him in the number of his productions. Such a use of the



THREE VIEWS OF CITY ROAD CHAPEL—THE MOTHER CHURCH OF METHODISM.



REV. E. ROBSON. One of the Pioneers of Methodism in British Columbia.

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