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WESLEY BUILDINGS
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THE METHODIST BOOK ROOM

In our April issue we printed several interior flashlight pictures of the Book Room. In this issue we present four exterior views showing the great expansion of the concern during the past quarter of a century.

On this page may be seen the projected new building, which exists as yet, only in the drawing of the architect, but which will in the course of time stand on the block of land facing Queen, John and Richmond Streets. On this prominent site it has been decided to erect the new House, which, when finished, will be one of the most complete and thoroughly equipped printing establishments in the Dominion. From the picture, the general design and size of the new building are clearly shown, and that its outward attractiveness will equal its internal equipment is very evident.

The pictures that follow on the inside pages show the Book Room as thousands have known it. The Richmond Street front gives a good idea of the House at it now stands. This picture was taken a few evenings ago when the busy rush of the day was over and the generally bustling street was temporarily quiet. These are the premises best known by the present generation of Methodists. The Temperance Street front is not so familiar. It represents the manufacturing section of the House, and as shown in the picture, is in itself quite an extensive plant. This picture was taken from an upper storey of another section of the Book Room, on the south side of Temperance Street, for so greatly has the business extended that a large building across the way has had to be rented to accommodate the

stereotyping department, provide for the staff of carpenters, and afford badly needed storage for the immense stock always on hand in the course of publishing.

The remaining picture is one that will be recognized only by the older Methodists who knew Toronto twenty-five or more years ago. It shows the old Book Room on King Street where for many years the business was carried on and the foundations were laid for the present House. These pictures demonstrate, as mere words could not do,

the wonderful growth of the business which began so humbly in 1829, when authority was given to Rev. Egerton Ryerson to open up a printing establishment and to commence a book trade.

From 1829 to the present day, eight different men have occupied the office of Book Steward. Rev. Anson Green, D.D., was Book Steward in all, seventeen years, and Rev. Samuel Rose, D.D. fourteen. In 1879 the present Book Steward was elected. The great host of present-day young Methodists have been familiar with the name of William Briggs from their



WESLEY BUILDINGS—AS THEY WILL BE. QUEEN STREET FRONT

earliest recollection. For a whole generation, Dr. Briggs has been the chief executive head of the Book Room. Under his wise and statesmanlike administration it has grown to its present huge proportions, and to him must be given a very large measure of the credit for its present outstanding position in the Book and Publishing World. Long may he live to guide its affairs, and to see the words of old verified as applied to this concern, "the latter glory of this House shall be greater than the former."