

the sympathy and good will of all our readers during the past year, in our farther venture. With that help we are sure of success. And now we wish to one and all

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE WOODSTOCK CENTENNIAL.

A Centennial Commemoration invested with more than a merely local or personal interest, was that by which the one hundredth anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Frederick Dibblee was celebrated at Woodstock, Carleton County, on the 23rd and three following days of October last. All the proceedings on the really important occasion were of an appropriate character. They embraced pious tributes of respect paid to the memory of a good and worthy clergyman by the descendants of those to whose service in spiritual things his whole life had been devoted. They presented, in a graphic manner, pictures of the dangers and difficulties amid which the Loyalist settlers in the wilderness, who founded this British Province of New Brunswick, had so long to live and struggle. And they heightened the striking effect of these pictures by a contrast with the happy conditions which surround us who have entered into the labors of our brave grandsires,—who now enjoy in peace the many rich fruits of their manly and patriotic devotion to a sense of duty, of their untiring efforts to make for themselves new homes, to found a new country in which the civil and political institutions of their fathers should be re-established, the laws they revered impartially administered, and the pure and undefiled religion of the Church they loved set upon a firm foundation, even in the wild and gloomy forests. A record of these interesting proceedings at Woodstock was published in some of our newspapers, and it has now been issued, in a complete form from the press of Messrs Barnes & Co., in a pamphlet of 28 closely printed, double-columned pages. The Rev. Frederick Dibblee, whose life has been thus commemorated, was the earliest missionary of the Church of England in that large field of work which included all the territory surrounding the waters of the Upper St. John in New Brunswick. On the 23rd of October, A. D. 1791, at Halifax, he received holy orders at the hands of Dr. Charles Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia, and immediately thereafter became the first Rector of Woodstock. He lived and laboured in his extensive parish with zeal and fidelity, and, under God's blessing, with remarkable success, for nearly thirty five years, dying on the 17th of May 1826, after a short but a severe illness. The pamphlet before us contains brief notices of other proceedings which took place at this Centennial celebration, and incidental notices of other persons who in the course of a century have been prominent members of the Church at Woodstock. Among those persons are, of course, included the several clergymen who have at different periods served in the Parish. There have been twenty Curates employed in succession at Woodstock within three hundred years, several of whom are still living and were present on this occasion. But it is a noteworthy circumstance that the ministrations of *three* Rectors have extended over all that long period. The first, Mr. Dibblee, held the Rectory and was an active priest for nearly thirty-

five years. His successor, the Rev S. D. Lee Street, in like manner held it nearly forty-one years; and the present incumbent, Canon Neales, was inducted in 1868.

The first four pages of this pamphlet are filled by a good and very appropriate sermon, preached by the Rev. W. Q. Ketchum, D. D., Rector of St. Andrews, who is a grandson of the Rev. Frederick Dibblee, Dr. Ketchum speaks of his ancestor in terms, not of mere eulogy but, of dutiful and just appreciation.

The chief part of this useful and timely publication, twenty pages, is taken up by a very interesting and well written essay, in which the Rev. W. O. Raymond, Rector of St. Mary's in this City, has treated of the Early Days of Woodstock, and in which is incorporated a sketch of Mr Dibblee's life, under the title "The First English Missionary on the upper St. John." We have read this Essay with great pleasure, both on account of the valuable information to be derived from it, and of the admirable spirit in which it has been conceived and the good taste that pervades its execution. With descriptions of the early state of Woodstock and the primeval condition and scenery of the wide tract of sparsely settled country in which the town of Woodstock was once the only centre of civilized life, the writer has united sketches of the Indians of the upper St. John, and of the part they took in the border wars during the French occupation of Acadie.

The account here given of the first settlement made at Woodstock by loyalists of the American Revolution, is naturally preceded by a consideration of the situation of the old English colonies prior to their rebellion, and of the causes which conduced to that momentous event. Mr. Raymond's readers may not all agree entirely with his views upon some points involved in the political struggle between the mother country and the colonists. But all impartial readers will respect his high and strong regard for the loyal men who sacrificed so much to their attachment to the English crown, and who upheld so strongly the church of their forefathers.

The account of the life and works of the Rev. Frederick Dibblee, with which this instructive and pleasing essay is concluded, is rendered doubly attractive by its simplicity and its direct, unambitious style. It embodies, too, many references to and extracts from a diary of more or less notable events, which Mr. Dibblee kept during several years. Such diaries were kept by many clergymen of those early days in the colonies, and they have been among the best authentic sources of American history. That the subject of Mr. Raymond's sketch was a good and worthy man, who, throughout a long and laborious life, discharged the duties of his sacred calling faithfully and efficiently, no one who reads the pages before us can doubt. When Mr. Raymond has reached the latest entry the old Rector made in his diary, a fortnight before his death, he cites the final entry made therein by the Rector's son, Col. John Dibblee, describing briefly in plain and touching words his father's last hours on earth. And the narrative is brought to a fitting close in this manner:

"Thus peacefully closed the life and labors of the first missionary on the upper St. John. May his memory be long and affectionately cherished."