

from our Synod, took place between us and the Presbyterians and Methodists, on the occasion of the General Assembly of the former body for all Canada happening to meet in Toronto simultaneously with our Synod, and the union of the different sects of the Methodists. These greetings, conceived in the spirit of the epistle for the Sunday following the occasion, and acted upon in a manner befitting the dignity of the Church, promptly called forth suitable responses in both instances; and, as was noted by the Presbyterian deputation to the Synod, they were not idle ceremonies and exchanges of sentiments only, but were accompanied by a definite proposal for united action in a matter which deeply concerns all Christian bodies alike—Religious Education in the Public Schools. We cannot but recognize the action of our Synod, and the reception of their overtures, as both the outcome and an evidence of the strong feeling in favour of Christian unity which is undoubtedly growing throughout Christendom; and we rejoice that the occasions which called forth that action were not allowed to pass unnoticed, more especially the union of the Methodist sects, which seems to us to be a great stride in the direction of unity.

The Sermon at the opening of the Synod was preached by the Rev. Professor Clark, of St. George's, and has been published by Messrs. Rowsell & Hutchison, at 10 cents per copy.

#### THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

The air is thick with centennial and semi-centennial celebrations. During the past month the United Empire Loyalists have observed the hundredth anniversary of their settlement in Upper Canada, and as we go to press Toronto is engaged in a week of gaieties to proclaim its having reached an age of half a century since it attained the dignity of a city. Some other celebrations we have heard of which do not call for any notice, but as our people are interested in both of those named, we think it well to refer to them. The first calls to memory an event of history which Canadians in general, and those of U. E. L. descent in particular—of whom there are good many in our own congregation—may well look back upon with pride, and we may all join heartily in the wish that the same spirit of loyalty and devotion and heroic self-denial which animated the U. E. Loyalists, may long live and flourish as an active principle amongst us. This celebration has been

fittingly emphasized by the founding of a memorial church on the Bay of Quinte, the scene of the principal settlement.

The municipal celebration had been inaugurated in a manner not arranged in the public programme but which was well designed to show the marvellous growth of our city—the gathering by the Church of her children for a special "Semi-centennial" Sunday School service.

Whether there is any great moral value in such a celebration as that in which Toronto is engaged, may be doubted, but at any rate it was a happy thought gathering as many as possible of the generation of the coming half century for a special service not likely soon to be forgotten, and thus memorizing the occasion in their minds as one possessing more than merely worldly interest. In that act we hope we see a good augury for the future of our city, an evidence of the spirit which recognizes religion as an indispensable element in the public welfare of the community. It is a pity that other religious bodies besides the Church have not taken part in it; from the remarks of the public press we gather that their omission to do so has been more accidental than intentional, and is regretted by them.

In 1834 there was but one Anglican church in Toronto. On Sunday last there were gathered together in the Sunday schools of twenty-five Anglican churches—children in numbers probably as great as the total population of the city of fifty years ago.

The muster for the service at St. George's comprised, besides our own, the schools of St. Matthias', St. John's, St. Stephen's, and St. Philip's. The total number present in the church was estimated at 1,400, nearly all officers, teachers and scholars, there being no room for others. We cannot, however, believe that this can be correct, as it seems to us impossible for St. George's to contain so many: we would prefer to estimate 1,100, or, at the outside, 1,200. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. F. Sweeny, of St. Philip's.

#### OUR NEIGHBOURS.

It is an open secret, so open that we need not refrain from mentioning it, that the Minister of a non-conforming congregation in our neighbourhood is about to enter the Ministry of the Church, and his name has been mentioned in connection with the Church of the Ascension, where it is likely that he will be appointed assistant minister.