

# History of Methodism in the Miramichi.

BY REV. DR. WILSON.

The Miramichi is, next to the Saint John, the largest river in New Brunswick, stretching from the Straits of Northumberland far away into the interior. It is rich in magnificent scenery, much excellent farming lands lie along its course, its waters abound with the most valuable of fish, while the output of lumber from its many mills is simply enormous. Newcastle, the shire town, is located on its northern bank, near where it is crossed by the Intercolonial railway, and is about equidistant from Moncton and the Quebec boundary. The town is well provided with churches, schools, hotels, and whatever is deemed necessary to comfort and pleasure in these days of progress and high civilization. Chatham for many years the head of the old Miramichi circuit, is situated on the south side of the river a few miles farther down. It is a busy place, has some very fine private residences, carries on a large trade with the outside world, exports an enormous quantity of lumber, has two excellent schools, several churches, good schools, and its people are well and favorably known for their thrift and business ability. It is the home of His Honor Lieut. Governor Snowball, whose father, the late John Snowball, was at one time the resident Methodist minister there.

### THE EARLY HISTORY.

In the early history of this region the people have been in the troubles and dangers of the period which was marked by menace, and the savage legislation by the bloody statutes of the townshaws and the knife. During the contest between France and Britain for the supremacy on the continent some terrible deeds were done, and after the Briton had been acknowledged the conqueror, it was no easy matter to establish friendly relations between the victors and the vanquished. But it was done and the Frenchman found British rule the best he had ever known, and the Indian learned that British promises were sacredly kept.

As no account of this section of country would be complete without some mention of the great fire of 1825, we give the following from the pen of the late Rev. Dr. Cooney:

"The summer had been remarkably dry, scarcely any rain had fallen, and very extensive fires had been raging for some time all the way from New Brunswick to the borders of Quebec. From the 5th of October to the 7th the heat was intense. . . there was not a breath of air, which, however, they have not always found. . . The principal human agent in bringing about this revival was the wife of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, who for many years played a prominent part in the public life of this province. . . Mrs. Mitchell, who was a member of another denomination, was a regular attendant at the Methodist services then held on a Sabbath afternoon. . . The lightning rent the firmament at that moment all nature appeared to be hushed into dumbness, when suddenly a lengthy and sullen roar came booming through the forest, and the whole of the northern side of the river burst forth as an immense sheet of flame. . . The forest country, and the general character of the scene was such that all it required to complete a picture of the Day of Judgment was the blast of a trumpet, the voice of the Archangel, and the Resurrection of the Dead."

### TALE OF DISASTER.

In this terrible calamity 160 persons were burnt or drowned, 636 buildings and 875 head of cattle destroyed, and the loss in property amounted to over a million of dollars. . . Great Britain sent \$25,000, United States and other foreign places, \$22,000, old Canada, \$26,700, Newfoundland, \$2,500, Nova Scotia, \$21,000, Prince Edward Island, \$850 and New Brunswick, \$23,650, of which over \$21,000 went from this city.

Methodism was introduced into Newcastle and Chatham on the same Sabbath in the month of August, 1825. The Rev. John B. Strong, then stationed in Fredericton, after a horseback ride of three days, reached Newcastle, and on the Sabbath preached there in the forenoon and evening. . . Mr. Strong wrote this: "Many were without, with hats off and as still as night. After the service the people looked on me with tears they shed. . . They had never seen a Methodist preacher since leaving their native land and begged me for their sakes and for the sake of their children to abide with them or use my influence to send them a missionary." On Monday morning Mr. Strong made his way up the North-west Branch, where he found Robert Tweedy with his wife and eight children. . . This good man "was the leader of a little band of Irish emigrants who had not left their religion behind them, and who for five years had by means of the class meetings and other simple services, kept alive their altar fire, and hoped and prayed for the coming of one of their own ministers. Three of the sons of this Godly couple entered the Methodist ministry. Robert James and William, who after many years of service, passed to their reward. A son of the latter is one of the professors in the Mount Allison educational institutions."

Of Mrs. Isabel Maclean, the sister of Robert Tweedy, the Rev. John Brewster was wont to tell the following story with thrilling effect, and perhaps never more so than at a conference missionary meeting held in this place.

"The story ran: 'As the little band of emigrants were about to embark the husband was so moved by the sorrow shown by the friends they were leaving that he proposed remaining in the old land, when the little wife said, 'Sing John Brown's hymn.' John Brown had been their class leader, and a favorite hymn of his began with the words: 'Away with our sorrow and fear.' The hymn was sung and wiping

away their tears they went on board. On the passage a great storm as experienced and while all expected to go down to the bottom, the little wife again inspired hope and courage by singing the old song. When they found themselves in the wildwood with everything so strange and lonely, the husband broke down and sorely regretted their having come to such a place, but the good little wife was ready with her song of trust and cheer. And by and by the end came, and while loving friends stood weeping around her she passed away singing in tremulous but triumphant tones:

"Away with our sorrow and fear,  
We soon shall recover our home."  
Mr. Strong promised to interest himself in their behalf and occasional visits were made until 1830, when the Rev. Michael Pickles was sent to care for them. As about one-half of the population were Roman Catholics and the rest largely Presbyterians, and as Methodism was not a name of honor in those days, it required some nerve and courage to plant the standard. But it was planted, and in sunshine and shade it has never been furled from that day to this nor is it likely to be.

### SOME GREAT REVIVALS.

The Miramichi circuit has seen the scene of some remarkable revivals, in which many understand by experience what Dr. Chalmers meant when he spoke of "the explosive power of a true affection." One of these took place in 1841 under the ministrations of the Rev. Arthur McNutt and his assistant, Humphrey Pick, and who soon after became identified with our educational institutions at Sackville, and who for many years was the recognized leader in that department of the work. The revival referred to took in a wide range of country and extended to Bedford and several other places. But the most powerful one was witnessed in 1852 during the pastorate of the Rev. William W. Pickles, and his assistant, Chas. B. Pitblado. Mrs. Perkins married a daughter of Richard Hearta, a leading merchant of Charlottetown, and sister of the Rev. William H. Hearta, of Yarmouth, and the present president of the Nova Scotia conference. After some years of higher work in this country, he retired from our work, and was succeeded by the immediate cause. Later he removed to the United States whither so many have gone in search of health and a higher work, which, however, they have not always found.

The principal human agent in bringing about this revival was the wife of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, who for many years played a prominent part in the public life of this province. . . Mrs. Mitchell, who was a member of another denomination, was a regular attendant at the Methodist services then held on a Sabbath afternoon. . . The lightning rent the firmament at that moment all nature appeared to be hushed into dumbness, when suddenly a lengthy and sullen roar came booming through the forest, and the whole of the northern side of the river burst forth as an immense sheet of flame. . . The forest country, and the general character of the scene was such that all it required to complete a picture of the Day of Judgment was the blast of a trumpet, the voice of the Archangel, and the Resurrection of the Dead."

### AT CHATHAM.

The first Methodist church in Chatham was commenced in 1830 by Rev. Mr. Pickles and formally set apart by Rev. Enoch Wood on July 31, 1831. Among the members of the trustee board were Robert Morrow, Joseph Spratt, James A. Pierce, Joseph Dutton and John Miles. The building was after the old style, high profile, square pews and lofty galleries, and could accommodate six hundred persons. Having suffered by fire in 1845 it was rebuilt and rededicated, and continued to be the place of meetings until the present handsome structure took its place.

Chatham and Newcastle continued to be known as the Miramichi circuit until 1874, when each under its own name was set off by itself. The conference appointees between 1830 and 1874 were the following:

1830-31—Michael Pickles,  
1831-32—Enoch Wood, Arthur McNutt,  
1832-33—Enoch Wood, Henry Daniel,  
1833-34—Albert Desbrisay, Henry Daniel.

- 1834-35—Richard Williams, Peter Sleep,
- 1835-36—Richard Williams, Humphrey Pickles,
- 1837-38—M. Pickles, Wm. Bannister, S. D. Rice,
- 1838-39—Wm. Semple, S. D. Rice,
- 1839-40—Wm. Semple, T. McMaisters, M. Pickles,
- 1840-41—Arthur McNutt, David Jennings, W. Allen,
- 1842-43—Arthur McNutt,
- 1843-44—Richard Sheppard,
- 1844-45—George Johnson,
- 1845-46—Christopher Lockhart,
- 1846-47—John Snowball,
- 1847-48—William Smith,
- 1848-49—George M. Barrett,
- 1849-50—William M. Perkins, Wm. M. Heartz,
- 1850-51—William W. Pickles, C. B. Pitblado,
- 1851-52—Frederick W. Moore,
- 1852-53—Edwin Evans, A. D. Morton,
- 1853-54—Edwin Evans, Chas. H. Forsley,
- 1854-55—Ingham Sutcliffe, A. D. Morton,
- 1855-56—Ingham Sutcliffe, A. H. Webb,
- 1856-57—John Waterhouse, James Crisp.

### CHATHAM MINISTERS.

- The Chatham ministers since 1875 have been:
- 1875-76—John Waterhouse,
- 1876-77—Robert S. Crisp,
- 1877-78—Ezekiah McKeown,
- 1878-79—Stephen T. Teed,
- 1879-80—Douglas Chapman,
- 1880-81—Frederick W. Moore,
- 1881-82—Frederick W. Moore,
- 1882-83—Thomas Marshall,
- 1883-84—George Steel,
- 1884-85—William M. Young,
- 1885-86—William Matthews,
- 1886-87—James Strothard,
- 1887-88—James Strothard for the same years have been:
- 1875-76—John Crisp,
- 1876-77—Edward Jenkins,
- 1877-78—George M. Campbell,
- 1878-79—George Steel,
- 1879-80—Thomas Pierce,
- 1880-81—Thomas Hicke,
- 1881-82—Fred W. Harrison,
- 1882-83—Douglas Chapman,
- 1883-84—Stephen M. Rice,
- 1884-85—John A. Clark,
- 1885-86—George Harrison,
- 1886-87—Levi S. Johnson,
- 1887-88—James Crisp,
- 1888-89—John A. Clark,
- 1889-90—George W. Fisher,
- 1890-91—Fletcher W. Pickles,
- 1891-92—A. L. Palmer,
- 1892-93—Hammond Johnson.

As might have been expected from the followers of Wesley, the friends of the temperance movement felt they could always count upon the sympathy of the moral support of the Methodist ministers. . . Some while total abstinence kept aloof from the general order, and in a quiet way gave it their aid and assistance. Some were active members of the total abstinence society, and some were in the ranks of the aggressive form to grapple with the evil. There were others, however, who were outspoken in their support of the temperance cause, and whose attitude was forcibly expressed by one of them, referring to a sore throat that had come to him through the use of wine, in the following words: "A I looked upon the face of my dearest companion, suddenly summoned into eternity in a state of intoxication, I vowed before God I would fight the business to the death." That brother no longer was, but we have others of the same stamp, men who have the courage of their convictions, and who will do what they deem their duty at any risk or cost. . . Among the members of the Scott Act campaign in Northumberland thrust himself into the fight with untiring energy and was regarded by all as a leader in the cause. . . Such an one is sure to have enemies, who, when unable to meet him in argument, will have recourse to other methods. . . This was done, and one evening, while he was in his house, a missile came crashing through the window and passed dangerously near his head, the effect of which would have been serious if not fatal if it had not missed its aim.

While no one is so important that he cannot be done without, the doing without is sometimes the occasion of much loss to the society to which he has belonged. . . Such experiences are common in every organization, and the churches in the Miramichi were no exceptions to the general rule. . . Dr. Smith gives the names of several of these classes, who in the earlier days, rendered valuable service as lay preachers and leaders, and whose death or removal seemed to be an irreparable loss. Among these special mention is made of Robert Morrow, and Joseph Spratt. . . In later years, another worker, S. Price, was drowned, and later still by the removal of the Anselow brothers, a further loss was sustained. . . One went to Nova Scotia, while the other mysteriously disappeared one day and has never since been heard of. He had gone out on a shooting tour up river, but failing to return at the expected time, he was sought for, but without avail. . . The woods were searched, the river was dragged, and everything possible done, but his fate remains and will probably always remain an unsolved mystery.

Whether Moses did or did not make mistakes in his dates and facts, some admittedly clever men even in Northumberland do so, at least occasionally, as the following incident will show. . . Three men, a clergyman, an editor, and a physician, met at dinner in one of the hotels. The first was a stranger, supplying for one of the pastors who was away on a vacation; the other two were residents of the town. . . One of the latter rather abruptly introduced the subject of the claims of the great religious leaders of the past, and stated that Confucius, and not Jesus, was the author of the Golden Rule. . . The man expressed the opinion that Moses was his author, which called forth the rejoinder that the Hebrew never gave utterance to anything so broad and general. . . The words of Jesus were quoted in which he said: "This is the law and the prophets," and the words of the law read: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." . . It became, therefore, a question of dates, and if Moses lived before the days of Confucius, which he did, the borrower was the great Chinaman.

On the list of ministers given in this paper every species of talent is represented—the eloquent orator, the painstaking pastor, the quiet and unpretentious toiler, and the energetic reformer—whose hard made sinners win and the gritty feel uncomfortable. Some excelled in the spiritual and some

in the financial realm. One good brother so persistently kept the money question before the people that a was described him as sitting with his arms around the cash when the quarterly returns were paid in and saying: "This, this is the God we adore, Our faithful, unchangeable friend."

### NOTED PAINTER DEAD IN NEW YORK

Was a St. John Man Who Left Here 30 Years Ago

J. Staples Rowe, a portrait painter well known in this city, Boston and Philadelphia, died yesterday at his apartments, in the Hotel Collingwood, in West Thirty-fifth street, from liver complaint. He was forty-nine years of age.

Mr. Rowe pursued his art studies in Boston and came to this city eighteen years ago. For several years he devoted most of his time to small porcelains on porcelain and ivory, and later to the painting of portraits. In five years his work has consisted almost entirely of life size portraits. Many persons of prominence have sat for Mr. Rowe. One of the best examples of his work was a miniature on ivory of Miss Helen Gould, which he painted a few years ago for which he received \$1,500.

Other portraits which he has painted are those of former President McKinley, Pierpont Morgan, Mrs. Hobart, and the late Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Dean Hoffman, the Countess De Castellane, and other members of the Gould family.

Mr. Rowe was an accomplished musician. He was a member of the Boston Art Club, the Philadelphia Art Club and the Orpheus Club. He is survived by a widow.

The subject of the above sketch, which is reproduced from the New York Herald, was born in St. John, and left here when about seventeen years of age, going to Massachusetts with his parents, who returned to their native state after the fire of '71. . . Mr. Rowe, carried on business in this city as a watchmaker and jeweller.

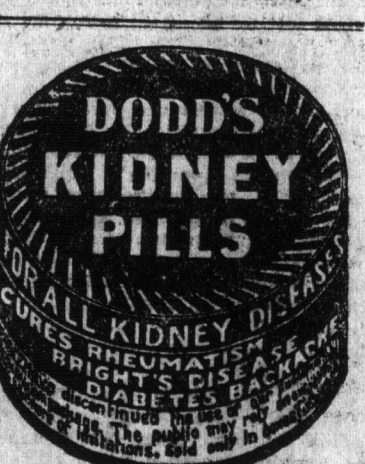
John S. Rowe, the father of the deceased, died at Lawrence, Mass., about five years ago. . . Mrs. Rowe, mother of the celebrated artist, has resided with her daughter, Mrs. Walter R. Miles, of 269 Charlotte street. . . The other surviving members of the family are: Mrs. J. M. Hay, St. John; Mrs. W. Bell, Moncton; Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Livetts of Lawrence, Mass.

### MEANT POISON SALTS FOR FATHER.

Police Probing Cause Isle (Me.) Strychnine Case Establish This Fact in Death of Little Pearl Barnes.

PRESQUE ISLE, Me., Nov. 2.—That the person suspected of putting strychnine in the Epsom salts used by the little girl, who died Sunday, was the father of the child, was established by the police investigation, as was also the positive conclusion that the person against whom the murderous intentions were directed was the father of the family and possibly his son-in-law as well.

It was generally known that Mr. Barnes was in the habit of taking the salts regularly, and it was rare, indeed, that he allowed a week to go by without his customary medicine. . . He had neglected to take his medicine previous to the day on which the little girl met her death, and it thus happened that she, rather than the person against whom the murderer's wrath was directed, became the victim of the foul plot, while the son-in-law only escaped death by reason of the small dose he took. . . The father had taken several doses of the poisonous element, and had not been a part of the package bought at the country store at Sprague's Mills, a little over a month ago. . . The father had taken several doses of the poisonous element, and had not been a part of the package bought at the country store at Sprague's Mills, a little over a month ago. . . The father had taken several doses of the poisonous element, and had not been a part of the package bought at the country store at Sprague's Mills, a little over a month ago.



### PRINCE LOUIS AT WASHINGTON Was Received by President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Rear Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg was received by the president and Mrs. Roosevelt at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The Prince was the bearer of a personal message of goodwill from King Edward to President Roosevelt, and was presented to the president by Sir Henry Durand, British ambassador. The presentation was made the occasion for a brilliant reception.

Tonight the British ambassador and Lady Durand were introduced to their distinguished house guest, followed by a large reception and ball. . . Save for the absence of military honors, Prince Louis' entry to the capital today has been invested with as much ceremony as that which made memorable the greeting to Prince Henry of Prussia several years ago. . . Shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon, Prince Louis and Sir Mortimer Durand arrived at the White House. The party was met at the main entrance, where they were escorted to the Blue Room, where a distinguished company awaited their arrival. . . In a few moments the carved wood doors swung open and the President and Mrs. Roosevelt entered. . . The Prince was presented by Sir Mortimer Durand, and the former immediately delivered the royal message to the president. . . The Prince then presented the members of his staff and the commanding officers of his squadron.

Both the President and Mrs. Roosevelt were markedly cordial and hearty in their welcome, the president expressing the hope that the moment of the visit of the British squadron in American waters would prove enjoyable to them. . . The President and the Prince then entered into an earnest talk about the various problems of a modern navy.

The reception lasted about an hour. . . Thirty-six guests made up the company at the dinner given in honor of the prince by the ambassador and Lady Durand, which included besides the prince and officers of his party, the ambassador and the secretary of state and Mrs. Root, the admiral of the navy and Mrs. Dewey, the lieutenant general of the army and Mrs. Chaffee, the commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic fleet and Mrs. Evans, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Davis, Rear Admiral Brownson, the assistant secretary of the navy and Mrs. Bacon and assistant secretary of war and Mrs. Oliver.

### When Bilious and Sallow

REMEMBER THAT THE LIVER IS PROMPTLY SET RIGHT BY DR. CHASE'S Kidney-Liver Pills

Many people are subject to periodical attacks of biliousness, sick headaches, indigestion, and other ailments, which do not realize that the liver is especially responsible for this suffering. . . Torpid, sluggish action of the liver is almost invariably accompanied by inactivity of the kidneys and bowels. . . The whole digestive and excretory system becomes clogged up and there are pain, discomfort and suffering. . . Because Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills have direct and combined action on kidneys, liver and bowels, they effect a prompt and thorough cleansing and invigoration of these organs. . . With all the poisonous waste matter removed, pains and aches disappear, the digestive system resumes its functions, the appetite is sharpened and health and vigor are restored. . . As a family medicine, Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills have never had a rival. . . Write: "I have used Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills for derangements of the kidneys and liver and stomach troubles, and can certify that they did me a great deal of good. . . I can heartily recommend them to anyone suffering as I did."

Mrs. James W. Belyea, Belyea's Cove, Queens Co., N. B., writes: "We have kept Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills in the house as a family medicine for years, and find them the most satisfactory of any remedy we can get. . . I can personally recommend them to anyone suffering from kidney and liver derangements and stomach troubles. . . Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, one pill a dose, 25 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto. . . Portrait and signature of Dr. A. W. Chase, famous receipt book author, on every box."

There is the same difference between law and better understood, and then the miracles of Jesus will once more rise to be natural proofs of His soul quality. . . Our present-day prejudice against psychic phenomena is unscientific. . . There is the same difference between the innocence of ignorance and the innocence of a passionate nature divinely self-controlled that there is between white and red, for good women and honest men. . . From sermon preached by Dr. Frank Crane at Union Church, Worcester, Mass.



### IRISH NEWS AND GOSSIP.

(Special to the Star.) DUBLIN, Nov. 4.—The question of a consumption sanatorium for County Dublin has been introduced at the meeting of the North Dublin Board of Guardians by Dr. McWalter. . . The board adopted a resolution declaring the necessity of such a provision. . . The question of the latter was given consideration, and it is one that demands careful consideration. . . How far experts have agreed as to the climatic conditions most favorable for such an institution is not quite evident. . . The local government board published a map some time ago showing the distribution of the disease in Ireland. . . Some parts of the county, especially along the western coast, were shown to be practically free of the disease; in others along the east the death rate from consumption was especially excessive. . . His climate anything to do with this difference, or if it is the aggregation of population that accounts for it? . . . If climatic conditions affect the prevalence of the disease they should also be considered in relation to the location of sanatoria. . . To decide the site of the latter, the geographer of the local government system would be an unscientific plan.

The funeral of the Dean of Limerick at Adare recently was the scene of an extraordinary popular demonstration of grief. . . Although Dean Flanagan belonged by birth and social connections to the landed class, and although he was no politician he was an ardent sympathizer with the tenants' cause. . . He never in the slightest degree concealed his view that all of the legislation on the part of the government was a mere glorification under that legislation did not adequately meet the needs of the tenant farmer. . . His view always was that the tenant farmer still remained after all the reductions of rent, and the great poverty, squandering, and falling prices and a rising bill. . . The dean's influence with neighboring landlords was not only a great asset for one end only to secure consideration and concession for tenants in difficulties. . . Hence he was the confident and adviser of all in trouble, not alone in his parish, but throughout the wide valley of the Maigue. . . Not alone was his aid and advice free to all, but his name was freely given to those who wished to raise money to meet difficulties, and the good priest lived to declare that he never was at a billiard table in any of these transactions. . . "I am security," he would say laughingly, "for hundreds, but if anyone left me in the lurch my creditors would only have my poor blind mare, Sally, to look to."

The dean's charities were for his means great, his demands on his flock light, and hence he lived cheerfully and voluntarily in the very poorest circumstances. . . At the last meeting of the Balle Boguagh Branch of the U. R. League, T. M. Farrelly, divisional director, said he had hardly ever seen anything more grossly unfair and misleading than a paragraph in last week's issue of William O'Brien's newspaper dealing with a portion of the proceedings of the recent East Caven executive meeting. . . Mr. Farrelly proposed a resolution condemning the action of Wm. O'Brien in attacking the Irish party and creating dissension in the ranks of the people. . . In this connection the Very Rev. P. O'Connell moved as an amendment that "a former resolution deploring Mr. O'Brien's action be sufficient and be allowed to stand, and that amendment was carried by a large majority. . . And yet the organ of this man who had cried out so often and so lustily, said the speaker, before a sympathetic Cork Advisory Committee, actually went out and attacked the Irish party and creating dissension in the ranks of the people. . . In this connection the Very Rev. P. O'Connell moved as an amendment that "a former resolution deploring Mr. O'Brien's action be sufficient and be allowed to stand, and that amendment was carried by a large majority. . . And yet the organ of this man who had cried out so often and so lustily, said the speaker, before a sympathetic Cork Advisory Committee, actually went out and attacked the Irish party and creating dissension in the ranks of the people. . . In this connection the Very Rev. P. O'Connell moved as an amendment that "a former resolution deploring Mr. O'Brien's action be sufficient and be allowed to stand, and that amendment was carried by a large majority. . . 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