

## A FOREWORD

THE Newfoundland Conference at its annual session of 1914 recommended that as it was nearly 100 years since the first Methodist Minister was stationed in St. John's, and seeing the great blessings brought to the city by the introduction of Methodism—that the Quarterly Official Board of Gower Street Church should take the initiative in celebrating “in some suitable manner the epoch-making event so as to impress the rising generation with an intelligent knowledge of the rise and progress of Methodism in St. John's.”

Accordingly Gower Street Circuit took the matter up, and with the hearty co-operation of George Street, Cochrane Street and Wesley Circuits, arranged that a series of public services for the celebration of the Centenary of Methodism should take place on June 20th and 21st, 1915.

On Sunday, June 20th, therefore, appropriate sermons were preached morning and evening in all the city churches by Revs. F. R. Matthews, B.A., President; T. B. Darby, B.A., James Pincock and Edwin Moore, who each dwelt clearly from different standpoints on the Doctrines and Polity of Methodism, and also its history in St. John's. In the afternoon of that Sunday, large mass meetings of the city Sunday Schools were held at Gower Street and George Street Churches, where addresses specially adapted to the young were given. At the Gower Street meeting Hon. H. J. B. Woods, the veteran Superintendent of Cochrane Street School, presided, whilst Rev. F. R. Matthews and Rev. E. Moore addressed the meeting. The George Street meeting was presided over by Mr. A. W. Martin, so long a worker at Wesley, and the speakers were Rev. J. Pincock and T. B. Darby, B.A. Both meetings were greatly enjoyed, and the singing by the scholars was of an exceptionally high order.

On Monday night the crowning service of the Centenary attracted an immense audience to Gower Street, the Mother Church of Methodism, and, needless to say, it was filled to its utmost capacity. Seated partly on the rostrum and within the commune rails and partly amongst the congregation, were the Ministers and laymen assembled from the Outports to attend Conference on the following day.

Precisely at 8 p. m. His Excellency Sir W. E. Davidson, K.C.M.G., our Governor, accompanied by Lady Davidson, Miss Davidson, and Captain A. Goodridge, A.D.C., arrived, and were met by the Church Officials. Soon after the service began with a fine Organ Prelude by Miss Horwood, the Church Organist, followed by Responsive Readings, led by the President, and the Doxology and Invocation. Then came the hymn, “When Israel, of the Lord Beloved,” which was followed by the reading of the Scriptures by Dr. Fenwick, and Prayer by Rev. D. B. Hemmeon, B.A., Pastor of Gower Street. The singing of Jackson's fine old “Te Deum” by the united choirs of the four city churches was most inspiring, and reflected the highest credit upon Mr. Arthur Mews, Organist of Cochrane Street, who had trained the joint choir and played the accompaniment for it. Miss Horwood again took the organ and played “O God of Bethel,” in which the whole congregation joined most heartily and with deep feeling.

Rev. F. R. Mathews, B.A., President of the Conference, who occupied the Chair, then introduced the Orator of the evening, Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A., LL.D. Expectation had been very high for some days, and happily none were disappointed. As he told the story of what God had wrought and briefly touched here and there on patriotic cords, he roused the deepest emotions of his hearers. In order that this soul-stirring oration may be