

## Heroes.

BY E. MURRAY.

HAVE you heard the olden story,  
How a dragon, fierce and fell,  
Ranged across the ravaged country,  
Lay at evening by the well;  
Scales of iron, tongue of fire,  
Blood-stained, terrible and grim,  
Slaying mothers, murdering children,  
In the twilight gray and dim?  
All in vain the fathers fought him,  
All in vain were wall and gate;  
Horrible, relentless, sleepless,  
Lay the deadly beast in wait.

Then the old-timed hero, bravely  
Signed the cross and drew the sword,  
Said, "I may not pause or falter,  
I, the sworn knight of the Lord."  
So St. George attacked the dragon;  
Long the fight and terrible,—  
Teeth and claws to sword and buckler,  
Dead at length the monster fell.  
So they cry, "St. George for England!"  
So they praise the hero well.

Let me tell the newer story:  
Dragon like across the land,  
Slavery raged fierce and evil,  
Soaked with tears and blood the land,  
Fettered men and helpless women,  
Crying children for its prey;  
And the monster, grim and awful,  
Grew in horror day by day;  
Strong men trembled—wise men sadly  
Gave the hideous thing its way.

Then the new time hero, calmly,  
Coming from his quiet place,—  
"Be it death or be it victory,  
Christ my Saviour, lend me grace,"  
Firmly faced the giant monster;  
Conquered! God was by his side;  
Freedom! freedom! cried the nation,  
As the hateful dragon died.  
But our hero,—well the angels  
Took him to their holy care,  
And the Lord, his warrior greeting,  
Crowned him saint and hero there.

Heroes! answer from your heaven,  
You have fought a goodly fight,  
Who won your crown and saved your people  
Strong in Christ, your leader's might.  
Is there nothing we can conquer?  
Is there nothing we can do?  
In our land no dragon creepeth,  
Yet we would be heroes too.

Every land must have its dragon,  
Every age its hero bear,—  
See! a monster, grim and deathful,  
Crouches in our country fair;  
Lurking in the glass of whiskey,  
Growling from the dram-shop's till,—  
Who upon the Lord's side standeth?  
Who the dragon drink will kill?

By the vows our lips have plighted,  
By the witnessed oath and word,  
We are pledged to fight the dragon,  
We, the sworn knights of the Lord.  
Lift the banner! gird the armour!  
Shout the battle cry again!  
We will never cease the conflict  
Till the dragon drink is slain.

## Sabbath-School Jubilee Celebration at Thornhill.

THE Jubilee Services of the Thornhill Methodist Sabbath-school were brought to a close on the 16th of September, completing an event which will rank as historic in the annals of Sabbath-schools in Canada, and which will long be remembered by the thousands scattered throughout the world, who have kindly recollections of the old Thornhill school. The occasion for the celebration was no less an event than the jubilee of the school. The affair has aroused feelings of the pleasantest anticipation throughout the district, for Thornhill Methodist

Sabbath-school is an institution of first-class importance.

Fifty years ago, the Methodist Sabbath-school was organized. Mr. Thomas Harris was the leader in the movement, and was chosen superintendent.

The organizing of a Sabbath-school in those days was not by any means the easy task it is to-day. Now-a-days, the Sabbath-school seems to grow up naturally as part of the Church work, just as does the weekly prayer-meeting. The needed appliances can be had at a small cost, and with little trouble of choosing. Everybody, from the superintendent to the deputy assistant-librarian, has his work mapped out by the experience of others, as set forth in countless books upon Sabbath-school management. Lesson-helps, and text-books of all kinds, may be had almost for the asking. Given scholars and teachers willing to form a school, and everything else almost is ready-made.

But in those times Sabbath-schools were not numerous, and their requirements were not so sedulously cared for by the great publishing and manufacturing houses as they are now. The teachers were obliged to map out their own course, each one for himself, and to follow it as best he could, and that under grave difficulties, in the want of assistance which is now so freely afforded the teacher.

The school was the natural outcome of the growth of the Church. Thornhill, though now known only as a quiet little village, ten miles north of Toronto, on Yonge-Street, was at one time a pushing, bustling village, with a trade which would have been a source of pride to many a larger place.

Those were the days of the circuit-riders, and the people of Thornhill and vicinity listened to the exhortations of a succession of itinerant preachers—first among whom was Nathan Bangs, afterwards the celebrated Rev. Dr. Nathan Bangs, of New York. The work being carried on from the United States, it was characterized by the Church government of the Methodist Episcopal body. But, later on, Wesleyans came out from England and Ireland; and when the district, of which Thornhill formed a part, dissociated itself from the American Church, it naturally accepted the Wesleyan form of Church government. The man in charge when this separation came on was Henry Ryan, a man of great zeal and earnestness. Among members of the itineracy who had to do with the early days of Methodism in Thornhill were Elder Case, Father Hyland, Father Wright, and Mr. Carson. The formal amalgamation with the Wesleyan Methodists took place about 1840.

There were good men and true in the early Methodism of Thornhill, as those will acknowledge who know this section.

The pastors have included such men as the Rev. Dr. Rose, Rev. Dr. Jeffers (now of Belleville), Rev. Dr. Bredin (now of Colborne), Rev. Dr. Ryckman, and others. The present pastor, Rev. John Locke, formerly had charge of the Gerrard Street Church, Toronto, where he proved himself a man of more than ordinary power in the all-round work of the pastorate.

The fact that the Methodist Sabbath-school came into existence shortly after the troublous times of 1837-38, shows that the people recovered rapidly from the excitement into which that event threw this part of the country particularly.

The celebration of the jubilee brought a large number of people, among them many very prominent men, who were at one time connected with the Thornhill Methodist Sunday-school. The members of the committee had spared no pains to make the jubilee celebration a success, and even the smallest detail seemed to be looked after.

Care had been taken to find prominent places on the programme for prominent men who had been at

one time connected with the school, and the array of talent shown—every person on the programme, with one exception, having at sometime been connected with the school—does great credit to the institution.

In a conversation with Mr. James, the superintendent, that gentleman stated some interesting facts. The school is in a flourishing condition, as it has always been. He attributes this in part to the fact that the school has lived, not for its own support, but for the good of others. All the money collected goes to missions. Three other things he mentioned as contributing mainly to the success of the school: (1) A regular teachers' meeting is held; (2) Teachers are not allowed to bring lesson-helps into the class—in other words, they are expected to teach from the Bible; (3) Perfect order is insisted upon.

The series of services began Saturday evening, when an address was given by the Rev. W. M. Bailey, an old friend of the school. The address was pointed, practical, and full of interest. On Sunday, four distinct services were held, beginning with a meeting of testimony as to benefits received by attending Sabbath-school. Many were the witnesses of life long good received. At the regular hour for service, the Rev. J. A. Rankin, once a Thornhill boy, preached an earnest and eloquent sermon on the subject of God's unchangeable and eternal love.

The children's service in the afternoon was a live meeting from beginning to end. The young folk and their friends seemed to enjoy the proceedings thoroughly. Mr. John Lane, ex-M.P.P., presided; and addresses appropriate to the occasion were delivered by the Revs. W. M. Beilby and G. W. Calvert. In the evening, at seven o'clock, the Rev. G. W. Calvert was the preacher. He chose as his subject: "A plea for the children," which he founded on the words of Genesis xlii. 22, "Sin not against the child."

On Monday evening, a platform meeting was held in the church. Mr. John Ramsden, warden of the county, and once a scholar in the school, presided, performing his duties to the admiration of all. Mr. James, the superintendent, delivered the opening address, in which he welcomed, in kind and eloquent terms, all who had come to take a part in the celebration.

Dr. McLellan, Superintendent of Institutes and Normal Schools—also a former member of the school—was the next speaker; and though his subject, "The necessity for proper seating accommodation in the school-room," was not one to suggest flowery eloquence, he made it the theme of a wonderfully fine, practical, and even eloquent address. Others also spoke with good effect.

The following is a list of the superintendents of the school from its inception: Thomas Harris, from 1839 to 1841; John Reid, M.D., from 1842 to 1847; Josiah Purkiss, from 1848 to 1851; John W. Cook, during 1852; Josiah Purkiss, from 1853 to 1881; Johnson Wilson, from 1882 to 1884; David James, from 1885 to 1889.

Shortly after the organization of the school, and for some time thereafter, the meetings of the Sabbath-school were held in the old frame school-house, still in use, which was erected in 1811, and which is historically interesting as being one of the oldest public school-houses—if not the very oldest—in the Province.—*The Globe*.

In yielding to one temptation, the way is opened for so many. Nothing will serve us day by day, but a humble trust in him who is able to keep us from falling, and earnest striving to watch as well as pray.