

with the one upon whom their holy hands rested in their sacred office. Our brother was married in 1883 to his present wife, Miss Sarah R., youngest daughter of the late George Brooks, Esq., of St. Johns, Welland County, Ont. Never were two better matched, and, as he has often said, it was the best day's work he ever did since he gave himself to God. Mrs. White has been to him in his arduous fields of toil, a tower strength, and an inspiring encouragement, amidst the perplexities incident to the work to which they have devoted their lives. After ordination, and while yet in the East, he was stationed at International Bridge, Merriton, and Emerald Street, Hamilton.

In the year 1887 he returned to the land of his future ministry, and was stationed in New Westminster, on whose streets he had played as a lad years before. In this charge he was successor to the late lamented Rev. Cloverdale Watson, and, following his splendid work, the church flourished under Bro. White so that the building had to be enlarged and improved. In 1890 he was removed to the Gorge Road congregation in the city of Victoria, and it was under his pastorate that the present beautiful and unique Centennial Church was erected.

In 1893 the Columbian Methodist College Board called upon Bro. White for assistance in their financial difficulties, and by their urgent representations of the case the Conference of that year loaned him to the College as their secretary, a position which he filled for the space of two full years, when he returned to the regular work and was stationed at Mount Pleasant for one year. His next charge was in Chilliwack, the most charming spot in the province, if not in the Dominion. In this spot we find him as we write these lines, and in this, as in all, he has made good proof of his ministry. In 1899-01 he was elected Secretary of the Conference, which position he filled with distinguished ability while the Rev. C. Bryant to whom we have already referred occupied the President's chair. The master, and the young man he had helped to make, were once more connected. While he was stationed in Victoria he was Chairman of the Victoria District, and in the year 1892 the Conference elected him to the President's chair—the highest gift in its hand. As in all other offices, he filled the chair with ability and that kindness of heart and manner for which he is so noted. The Church has received his whole life, and while he has been remembered by his brethren in their gifts of honor he has been well worth: of them all, and we cannot but hope that there are for him many long and useful years in the vineyard of the Master to whom he has given his life and talents.

Brother White is not to be sized up among the "consecrating preachers," but he stands, nevertheless, far up on the list of the preachers of the Methodist Church. A kind and brotherly man, a wise counsellor and administrator, a clear-cut and expository thinker, and a preacher, and man of God for whom the Church will ever be thankful.

He has lived to be loved
By the best of the world;
And the seed he hath sown
Unto Heaven has grown.

CHILLIWACK METHODISM.

The first religious service held in the Chilliwack valley was conducted by that indefatigable missionary and pioneer, Rev. E. Robson, and took place in the home of Isaac Kipp, Esq., of Chilliwack, on Sunday morning, June 8th, 1865, eight persons being present. On the same day a service was held by the same missionary in the home of D. W. Miller, Esq., of Sumas. Thus Methodism laid its first foundation in what has since become one of its strongest centres of life and influence. The valley itself, lying on the east of the Frazer river, about fifty miles from its mouth, and extending from Popum to Sumas lake, is one of the most fertile and beautiful conceivable. Its one drawback has been the fact that a considerable portion is subject to periodical overflow from the summer freshets in the river.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IN CHILLIWACK, BUILT ON BANK OF THE ACHELITZO RIVER.

However, in ordinary years little or no damage is done, and a comprehensive dyking scheme is now being put through which will protect a large part of the land for all time to come. Numerous private dykes have also reclaimed a considerable acreage. It is no exaggeration to call this valley by the name often given to it, "The Garden of British Columbia." There is a large population, and a general air of settledness and prosperity that is lacking in many of the newer portions of the Province. In the centre of this thriving community has grown up the enterprising town of Chilliwack, and good roads radiate from it in all directions, passing many a broad farm and beautiful homestead.

For several years after the holding of the first service more or less regular visits were made to the valley by the pastor of Westminster Circuit, and much good was accomplished. In the autumn of 1868 a fiery young evangelist, bearing the now venerated name of Thomas Crosby, came up the river on a visit to the scattered Indian tribes. But his zeal and enthusiasm over leaped all boundaries of race or color, and wherever he went he preached to the white settlers in their cabins with immediate success. The word was in demonstration of the Spirit and the power of God

rested upon the people. In a few weeks one of the most remarkable and widespread revivals ever known in the Province was under way. The people practically gave up everything else to attend the meetings, and many extraordinary manifestations of the Divine presence took place. Men were stricken down by the overwhelming power of the Spirit of God, and the work went on until nearly the whole community had been converted. The fruits of that revival abide to this day, and the whole history of the valley has been influenced to a marked degree as a result. The first church was built in the summer of 1869 under the direction of Bro. Crosby, the building being erected upon the banks of the Achelitzo, where its crumbling ruins stand to this day. It is said that the first contribution was made by an Indian. For years the church was the rallying point for Methodists far and near, and many souls were born there.

The following brief history of the establishment of Chilliwack as a separate circuit appears in the Circuit Book in the handwriting of Rev. E. White, Chairman of the District. "At the District Meeting held in Victoria, March, 1869, it was resolved, 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient to divide the Westminster circuit and form all above Langley into a separate mission, to be known as Chilliwack.' At a meeting held a few days later at Sumas at the house D. W. Miller, by Rev. E. White, the members of our church at Sumas and Chilliwack fully and unanimously endorsed this resolution, and it was certified in writing. The matter was then referred to the Missionary Committee, which expressed no dissent, thus leaving the question in the hands of the local parties concerned.

"As the Rev. A. Browning, then superintendent of New Westminster, was much opposed to the division of the Circuit, the formal organization of the new Mission was delayed till June 6th, 1870, when the Chairman, Rev. E. White, met the official members residing at Sumas and Chilliwack to consult about this and other matters at Bro. Miller's, Sumas. Present beside the Chairman, A. C. Wells, V. Vedder, D. W. Miller, A. Peers, I. Kipp, J. L. Chadsey and D.