

In 1801 Mr. Chappell's hands were strengthened by the arrival of Mr. Thomas Dawson—one of John Wesley's early band of local preachers. The late Rev. Stephen Bamford, who at one time was Superintendent of the Charlottetown Circuit, had, in his early days, frequently heard Mr. Dawson preach at the Blaris Camp in Ireland. He was born in County Caven, Ireland, in 1762. When sixteen years of age he entered the Army, and as an officer served in the American war, under Lord Cornwallis, until peace was declared. Returning to Ireland he joined the Royal Irish Artillery, and subsequently served as Paymaster in the battalion of Caven Militia, under the Earl of Bellamont, until 1799, when he finally retired from military service. In March, 1801, he took passage for Philadelphia on his way to this Province to secure possession of a tract of land he had purchased at the head of Hillsborough River. While in Philadelphia influential citizens, evidently impressed with his qualifications, urged him to accept the position of Chaplain in one of their frigates; but his loyalty to king and country prevented his acceptance of the tempting offer. He at once proceeded on his journey, reaching Charlottetown on the 16th day of June, and immediately took charge of his estate, twenty-four miles distant from the Capital, and which is still known as "Dawson's Grove."

Mr. Dawson at once exerted himself to promote the cause of religion—and his name is intimately connected with the rise and progress of Methodism in Prince Edward Island. He found four members of the church in Charlottetown—Benjamin Chappell and his wife, Joseph Robinson and Mrs. Smith—and proved a most important auxiliary to the small and struggling cause. Services were frequently conducted by him in town, sometimes in the "hired room," at Samuel Hutchinson's, near the jail, Townal Street; but generally at the house of Mrs. Smith, which stood on the site of the present residence of Miss Morris, and adjoined the residence and Post Office of Mr. Chappell, Water Street. He also visited every settlement on the Island, holding services among the people, who hailed his coming with great delight. The forests were then in their primitive grandeur; there were no roads, few horses, and no carriages of any kind, no bridges; and the faithful itinerant in the midst of hardships and privations, now altogether unknown, did the work of an evangelist, and made proof of his ministry. His youngest son, referring to his father's faith and work, observes that "no obstacle seemed so great as to hinder him from performing what he considered his duty." Although a man of strong constitution, the exposure and long journeys were too heavy a tax on his physical strength, and after a short illness, in the 42nd year of his age, he closed his useful and honorable career, happy in God and full of hope and peace. Mr. Dawson was a pious and intelligent man, of liberal education, whose practical ministry was very acceptable to the people, and was rendered the happy means of deepening and spreading the work of God. His name is still recalled with grateful emotion. "For after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God," he "fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

### REV. WILLIAM BLACK.

The first Methodist Minister to visit Charlottetown was the Rev. William Black, of blessed memory. He was one of Mr. Wesley's converts, and is justly recognized as the Apostle of Methodism in the Maritime Provinces. His ministry was convincing, congregations overflowed, multitudes were converted, and the