

The Story of the Years ---1896-1921.

Gower Street Methodist Church--
Address Delivered by Mr. John
Leamon, Recording Steward.

(TUESDAY EVENING, October 18.)

(Concluded.) AN INNOVATION.

It was in 1903 that individual cups were first used in the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and while at first the innovation was not generally approved of, we think all will now agree that it is a great improvement over the old method.

The Bi-centennial of the Birth of John Wesley was celebrated in 1903.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

On Sunday 15th June, 1905 the celebrated English preacher and writer, Rev. Mark Guy Pearse preached in this church, many present will remember the occasion and the eloquent sermon which it was our privilege to hear.

On March 13th, 1906, the Rev. E. Ryerson Young, the devoted and consecrated missionary lectured on his work among the Indian tribes of North America. In the same year another visitor of note in the person of the Rev. Dr. Crosby visited St. John's and took part in our Missionary Anniversary.

On November 15th an event of such importance as to call for special attention took place on the first Sunday in February, 1907, when sixty Sunday School Scholars went forward at the Sunday School session and gave themselves to the Lord. Mr. G. W. Gushue was Superintendent at the time. There may soon be a repetition of an occasion so glorious we will all pray—and none more earnestly than the Superintendent and teachers of the present day.

In 1910 Mr. Herbert Barth, son of General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, and well-known Evangelist conducted a successful campaign in this church.

CHURCH UNION.

In 1912 a ballot was taken in the Quarterly Official Board on the basis of Church Union, resulting in sixteen votes in favour and two against. A little later the vote of the members and adherents was taken. The result was a landslide in favour of union. I have no record of the vote, but it was largely in favour of union.

In 1912 Rev. Dr. Rogers our Pastor completed his 50th year in the ministry. On January 1st, 1913, the Official Board presented a clock to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. P. Peters on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

REV. DR. ROGERS.

In 1913 the Rev. Dr. Rogers, who had just entered on his third year in the pastorate of the church, following a comparatively short illness was called to his reward. During the two years of his Ministry he had endeared himself not only to his own congregation and to the Methodist people generally, but to all classes of the

community, and his passing was a source of profound and genuine sorrow. The subsequent removal of Mrs. and Miss Rogers from St. John's to Halifax was a distinct loss to the church. The great interest they showed in all departments of the church was inspiring, but particularly in connection with the Woman's Auxiliary Missionary Society, and the Sunday School was their work and influence felt.

FRESH AIR CAMP.

In 1914 the Rev. D. B. Hemmison, B.A., assumed the Pastorate of this church, and for four years faithfully and acceptably ministered to the congregation. His pulpit utterances were always eloquent, scholarly and inspiring. During his pastorate a fresh air camp for the poor children of the congregation was opened and operated for three years, each child being given ten days at the camp, which proved to be a real boon and blessing to all the families concerned.

THE WAR.

The most eventful year of the 25 was that of 1914 when the world was plunged in war, and Gower Street Church, in common with all the other churches, was called on to part with its best and noblest young manhood, many of whom went out during that year and the years that followed to make the supreme sacrifice. Up to the present there is nothing on the walls of this church to show our appreciation of the debt we owe to these heroes and to honour their memory. But you will be pleased to know that in a short time a suitable memorial tablet in bronze will arrive from England and will be placed in this church. Further, for a long time the Board has discussed the plan of erecting a memorial building which would more fittingly honour our heroic dead, but owing to present financial conditions, the matter must be held in abeyance, but certainly not forgotten.

STANDARD REARERS OF THE YEARS.

Not only the loss of its sons on the field of battle and on the high seas has this church been called to mourn. During the past twenty-five years many of its standard bearers have fallen by the way. I would recall the names of the late A. E. Sherran, Capt. Moss, Campbell Macpherson, T. M. Simpson, J. E. P. Peters, Capt. L. Diamond, James MacIntyre, Alex. Scott, J. W. Nichols and Captain Eric Ayre. Among the noble women who worked so faithfully and unselfishly for this church we must think of Mrs. S. R. March, Mrs. R. K. Bishop, Mrs. Macpherson, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Diamond and Mrs. Fenwick. These all died in faith, leaving us an example that we should follow in their steps.

How gladly would they be with us to-day. May we not think of them as present in spirit?

TEMPERANCE.

The great Temperance Campaign fought and won in 1915 is something in which this church did its part, and of which we are proud, although the lack of enforcement of the act as it stands upon our statute books is something of which as a people we may well be ashamed.

CENTENNIAL OF METHODISM.

An event of more than ordinary interest took place in 1915 when the Centennial of Methodism in St. John's was celebrated. On Sunday, June 20, in all the Methodist Churches of the city appropriate sermons were preached, morning and evening, by the Rev. F. R. Matthews, B.A., President of the Conference, Rev. T. B. Darby, M.A., Rev. James Pincock and Rev. Edwin Moore. Mass meetings of the Sunday Schools were held in the afternoon at Gower Street and George Street where addresses especially adapted for the young were given. At Gower Street Hon. H. J. B. Woods presided, while Rev. F. R. Matthews and Rev. Edwin Moore addressed the meeting. At George Street Mr. A. W. Martin presided and the speakers were Revs. J. Pincock and T. B. Darby, M.A. On Monday night the crowning service of the Centenary was held at Gower Street Church, which was filled to capacity. At 7 p.m. His Excellency Sir W. R. Davidson and Capt. Goodridge, A.D.C. arrived and were met by the Church officials. Miss Horwood presided at the organ, and began the service with a fine organ prelude, followed by responsive readings led by the President, the Doxology and invocation, then came the hymn "When Israel of the Lord Beloved," followed by the reading of the Scripture by Dr. Fenwick and prayer by the Rev. D. B. Hemmison, B.A., Pastor of the Church. The singing of Jackson's "Te Deum" by the united choir of the four churches accompanied by Mr. Arthur Mews, organist of Cochrane Street Church (who had trained the joint choirs) was magnificent. Miss Horwood next played "O God of Bethel," in which the whole congregation joined most heartily. Rev. F. R. Matthews, President who presided then introduced the speaker of the evening, the Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A., LL.D., who delivered a soul stirring and masterly oration.

TABLET UNVEILED.

The President of the Conference next invited His Excellency the Governor to unveil the Brass Mural Tablet, which had been placed on the right of the pulpit in honour of the occasion. Referring to the patriotic strains of the oration, he mentioned that on the authority of Sir Robert Perks of London, no less than 750,000 of John Methodists are now serving at the front or training to go there. His Excellency expressed himself as being warmly in sympathy with the Centenary Celebration, but after listening to the magnificent oration just delivered, was at a loss to speak lest he should detract in the least from its dignity of power. He paid a high tribute to the genius and labours of Wesley, and of the grand men who had so worthily extended his work in Newfoundland. Without being invidious he might mention John Pickett, George Cabbitt, Samuel W. Sprague and William Wilson of early

days, and would add two in our day whom it had been his privilege to know, viz.—the eloquent Dr. Rogers and the honoured Dr. Cowperthwaite, who happily survived. In closing he spoke of the splendid response made in Newfoundland to the call for men and money for the war. He then stepped aside and drew the curtain from over the brass tablet, and read the inscription thereon aloud, as follows:—

This Tablet Commemorates The Founding of the Methodist Church in the City of St. John's in the year 1815.

By the REV. JOHN PICKAVANT, of Lancashire, England, and honours the memory of those faithful missionaries, who, with him, have profoundly influenced the religious life of Newfoundland.

Erected in connection with a Centenary Celebration in this Church in the year 1915.

The Centenary Celebration was brought to a close by the singing of "God Bless Our Native Land," the National Anthem, the pronouncing of the Benediction by Rev. Dr. Morton, a former pastor of the Church, and the playing of an organ postlude by Mr. Gordon Christian, L.R.A.M., Organist of George Street Church.

GOWNS AND SCOUTS.

The year 1915 saw the gowned choir and the new Methodist Hymn Book simultaneously introduced in connection with our Sunday School.

The formation of the Boy Scouts by our Pastor, Rev. Mr. Forbes in 1918 is a movement which I think we all appreciate. It is of immense value to the young lads of the congregation both physically and morally and will bind them closer to the church.

MRS. DEMAREST AND WHITE GIFTS.

The Evangelistic Campaign of Mrs. Booth Clibborn Demarest was a notable feature of 1919, and her splendid and successful services in this church will not soon be forgotten.

The "White Gift Service" with its offerings of self substance and service was introduced by our pastor two years ago, and has proved to be of great material assistance to the poor of this church, and of spiritual uplift to all who participate in it.

GIRLS' CLUB.

The Girls' Club, which was formed with Mrs. George Peters as President, presented its first annual report in 1919, which was very much appreciated and the information given in reference to its four standards of work, viz: Physical, Intellectual, Religious and Service was most encouraging and inspiring. The Club is still actively at work under the leadership of Mrs. J. S. Currie.

A HAPPY AUGURY.

I will close with one glimpse at an important event affecting the Parsonage which took place in Scotland in 1920. I refer to the marriage of Rev. E. W. Forbes, Pastor of this church. Taking advantage of a well earned holiday, ostensibly on Boy Scout business he slipped across the Hebrides Pond to Scotland and made a raid on the Presbyterian fold and took unto himself a wife. The Presbyterian loss in this instance is a gain for the Methodists. Some might call it a case of proselytizing, but rather let us see in it a consummation of Church Union, and hope that it foreshadows the larger union for which we wait so hopefully.

REV. CARL GARLAND.

In closing this report let me say how greatly the Official Boards appreciate the splendid services rendered us in our public celebrations by our distinguished visitor and fellow countryman, the Rev. Carl N. Garland. We will not soon forget his eloquent and soul stirring sermons of Sunday and the magnificent lecture Wednesday. We gratefully thank him for what we have already received and in anticipation of what he is yet to give us.

Household Notes.

When you store bulbs in the cellar most them with cardboard labels dipped in paraffin.

The flavor of mushrooms is very delicate and can easily be spoiled by putting flour in the gravy.

If cocoa is beaten with a Dover egg beater just before serving, scum will not form on the cups.

The envelopes which have transparent name-space make excellent holders for buttons and tape.

Baste a roasting ham with a few tablespoonfuls of grape juice. This will give it a delicious flavor.

Stick a bit of adhesive plaster on the bottom of each rubber and you will not slip on icy pavements.

In very cold weather the canary's bath should be slightly warm. Be sure that he is not in a draught.

If you wish to see the boy's tongue and throat, put a drop of honey on his chin and tell him to lick it off.

Old velvet pieces covers make excellent round sofa pillows, stir the edges, gathering the velvet to the center.

When cleaning radiators lay damp cloths over the tops of them so that the dust will stick there and not fly.

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To the boy or girl who makes the greatest number of words out of "LANTIC SUGAR" we shall give \$10.00.

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Your list of words must be written with ink, in alphabetical order, on ruled paper, and must reach us before Dec. 1st, 1921.

With your list you must enclose that part of a Lantic Sugar package which bears a red ball showing the words Lantic Sugar.

Save up all the red balls on Lantic Sugar packages. They will count in another competition which we shall have after this one is completed.

Look out for our advertisements each week and read them for your mother.

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Household Notes.

Fill left-overs with a flavored, sweetened gelatine in which cream and milk are used instead of water. Chill.

Corn for popping should be drenched with water before it is placed over the coals. Then every grain will pop.

If you dislike the bitter taste of candied grapefruit peel, soak the skin for 2 hours in cold water, before using.

Cocoa often tastes raw because the

cooked together before adding the milk.

To make "Teapot Tea," put two teaspoonfuls tea in cheesecloth, or place it in a teaball. Put in a scalded pot, and pour over it 2 cups of boiling water. Allow it to steep for 5 minutes, then remove tea bag, and serve immediately.

Baked ham cutlet is appetizing. Place slice of ham in baking dish and cover with thinly sliced apples. Mix together 1 cup water, 3 tablespoonfuls flour and 1 tablespoon vinegar, and

pour over ham. Bake and serve in a border of seasoned potatoes.

Mix together 5 tablespoonfuls brown sugar, 1 cup chopped suet, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 3 tablespoonfuls molasses, 2 cups flour and 1 cup sour milk. Then add 1/2 cup chopped nuts, 1 cup chopped dates and pinch of nutmeg. Bake in a greased mold and serve with vanilla sauce.

Brick's Tasteless can be purchased at T. McMurdo & Co.'s, Water Street. Price \$1.20 per lb. Postage 20c. extra.—asp15,17

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