

The Wesleyan,

Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
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COMMEMORATION SERVICES—
AT FREDRICKTON, N. B.

Very interesting services in connection with the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the dedication of the Methodist Church were held on Sabbath last. An Anniversary Sunday School service was held in the church in the afternoon participated in by Rev. Messrs. Henry Daniel, D. D. Currie, and G. M. Fisher. Mr. Currie delivered an appropriate and interesting address, recounting the rapid progress made in the nursery of the church during the last twenty-five years. The children occupied the galleries and choir, and their singing, led by the Superintendent, Hon. Judge Wilnot, was excellent. A collection was proposed by the Superintendent who stated that he would make it up to \$100 in commemoration of the occasion.

One of the largest congregations ever assembled in the church was present at the evening service, when the Rev. D. D. Currie preached an admirable sermon, from the 10th, 11th and 15th verses of the 77th Psalm. His description of the first formation of the Methodist Church in this city seventy years ago, was a recital of its history heretofore unknown to many of his hearers. He named the ministers who preached the dedicatory sermons in the old church in 1840, which building was destroyed by the great fire of 1850. The present edifice was dedicated in December 1852, the sermons in connection therewith were preached by Rev. Richard Knight, and the Rev. Charles Churchill, the Pastor. Mr. Currie then related many of the hardships encountered by the Trustees in their attempts to build the present church, many of the congregation having lost their all in the fire that destroyed the old church. He gave an amusing account of the difficulties Methodist preachers met with in the early days of Methodism in this country. Until a comparatively recent date no Methodist preacher could marry a couple in this Province; the first legal marriage of a minister of this denomination being in the year 1835, when the Rev. Epaphras Wood united in the holy bonds of matrimony our respected townsman S. D. McPherson, Esq., and his present amiable partner. The preacher added statistics showing the amount of valuable property held by this church, and from his figures the Methodist Church in the United States and Canada at present holds a very enviable position, being the leading denomination in the former country, and the largest protestant denomination in the Dominion. He very feelingly referred to the pillars of the church in this city who had passed to their reward, among whom he named the following worthies: Jos. Garnet, Thos. Pickard, Robt. Chestnut, Jas. Hogg, Henry Fisher, Andrew Richey, John Simpson, Jas. Hale, A. T. Coburn, Alexander McCausland, and C. S. Lugin.

At the conclusion of his sermon, the Rev. Mr. Currie stated that there is at present a debt of \$2,000 on the church, and that it should not be allowed to continue another day. He proposed to raise the amount from the congregation in a few minutes, and requested the

pastor, Rev. Mr. Brewer, to go down the aisles and receive amounts from those who might not wish to publicly announce what they would give, and it was only a short time before he had more than was required. His Honor Judge Wilnot, who has given largely to the support of the church, announced that he would give \$400. Sheriff Temple stated that he would be one of twenty who would wipe off the debt, and thought there was bad management somewhere to allow the debt to remain so long. Messrs. Lambert & Sons then gave \$200; C. H. B. Fisher, \$200; C. Fred. Fisher, \$125; and the following gentlemen subscribed \$100 each: M. Colter, F. B. Coleman, John Edgecombe, George Hatt, Sr., Sheriff Temple, a father in memory of a sainted boy, the Sabbath school, LeBaron Smith.

The following persons subscribed \$50 each:—S. D. MacPherson, H. J. Thorne, Fred. P. Thompson, Dr. Atherton, George Hatt, Jr., Dr. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gill, A. A. Miller \$30. (A number subscribed \$20, \$15 and smaller sums, whose names we cannot find space to publish.)—Ed. Wes.

The amount asked for was \$2000, and the amount subscribed was upwards of \$3,200.

This is certainly creditable to the congregation, especially when it is remembered that a week before many of those who subscribed gave a large portion of the \$2000 to aid in procuring a Temperance Reform Club.—Reporter.

THE TEACHER'S CONVENTION,

Held in Halifax last week, was a great success. The effect of the discussions must have been to greatly stimulate teachers in their important vocation. We append notices of several addresses, showing that our Methodist home and academic teaching showed to good advantage in the general exercises.

Mr. A. N. Archibald, formerly Miss Mellich, Preceptress of Sackville Ladies' Academy, having been called upon, came forward and read in the most pleasing manner a poem prepared for the occasion. The literary merit of the production is high, and the rhyme and rhythm seemed to be perfect. In the opening stanza by the use of a well-wrought figure of a plant growing in

"A lonely spot,
Far away from the gardener's tended plot,"
the idea of the transforming power of culture was admirably illustrated. A high tribute is then paid to the teacher's work, in leading from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. Mr. J. S. Hutton, M.A., moved, and Hon. Senator Robert Macdonald for her most excellent poem, coupled with a request that it be given up for publication.

Another paper says of this poem:—
"Mrs. Archibald, by a most exquisite poem, taught in style rhythmically musical, gave the Convention its greatest treat, having a series of most interesting and appropriate sessions."

Mr. D. H. Burbridge, M.A., of the Morris Street School, read a paper on "Home Lessons." They injure the health when given in excess. Short school sessions, about four hours a day, give the best results. Home studies should not be expected from young pupils, and should be gradually lengthened as age advances.

No tasks should be required, excepting such as can be certainly learned and understood, without any supplementary aid at home. Consequently, when assigning a lesson the teacher should add a clear outline of the subject, and the best method of studying it, so that the child may not be discouraged. Home lessons, when properly conducted, are most useful in teaching children the use of Text-books, and habits of self-reliance and self-study. The committing to memory of choice poetical gems is attended with excellent results.

Home lessons are as necessary to teachers, as to children.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Calkin, A. H. McKay, P. O'Hearn, Mellich, Tufts, to consider the merits of school books.

Financial matters engaged some attention.

The election of officers then ensued. Condon and McKay moved that Dr. Allison be President of the ensuing Convention. Passed.

Mr. Condon and Paterson moved that Messrs. Calkin and McDonald be Vice-Presidents. Passed.

Mr. McKay, of Dartmouth, was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

The following 13 Councillors were elected:—
A. H. McKay, M.A. President of Pictou Academy.
B. Russell, Barrister-at-Law.
A. McN. Paterson, M.A.
A. N. Archibald, Esq., Principal Richmond School.
P. O'Hearn, (Grade A), St. Mary's School.

Hinkley Condon, Esq., Halifax Inspector.
J. T. Mellich, M.A. Principal of Albro Street School.
D. H. Burbridge, M.A. Morris Street School.

Herbert Bayne, A. M. D. Ph., High School, Halifax.
J. Scott Hutton, M.A. Halifax.
A. H. Smith, Esq., Halifax.
Rev. Mr. McGillivray, Hants Inspector.
W. H. Waddell, Esq., High School, Halifax.

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SACKVILLE DISTRICT CONVENTION.

Pursuant to the ruling of the late financial Committee of the Sackville District, a goodly number of Ministerial and lay brethren assembled at Sackville, on the 20th inst., to attend a District Convention, the primary object of which was mutual improvement by the discussion of various topics suited to the times.

In the absence of the Chairman who was unavoidably detained from meeting with his brethren, the Rev. D. D. Currie was appointed to preside and Rev. O. W. Dutcher was chosen Secretary.

After the usual opening preliminaries the Committee appointed by the District to arrange the time and place for the Convention submitted the following programme of topics:—

1. Personal consecration.
2. Pulpit preparation.
3. Best mode of conducting Revivals.
4. How to make our Social Services interesting.
5. Dangers and duties of Church members.
6. Our financial condition.

The respective members of the District to whom these several topics were previously assigned, did themselves infinitely credit both by papers read and in their debate on the various questions, all of which showed most conclusively that no little time and attention had been devoted to a preparation for this popularly-growing branch-institution of our church.

Worthy of note among the several papers read, was one forwarded by Rev. Bro. Stewart, on Pulpit preparation, which was replete with valuable suggestion and elicited an animated debate.

All the Sessions were open to the public and at the evening especially many availed themselves of the privilege of being present to hear, "mark, learn and digest." At the evening session every brother, ministerial and lay acquitted himself admirably and did ample justice to his theme. On the question of finance the Rev. Robert Wilson, to whom this topic was given, spoke fluently and effectively, and many were evidently persuaded to present more liberal "offerings" than hitherto, especially when they learned the fact of so large deficiencies sustained by the brethren on the several dependent circuits, and the duty of striving to make all our domestic missions self-sustaining. With a view to bring about this most desirable end by stimulating the members of our church and congregations "to bring all their tithes into the store-house," that this drawback by our churches' prosperity may be remedied, the following plan of arrangement, deputation, etc., was approved of:

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| Sackville. | Local arrangement. |
| Tinamar. | The Dist. Chairman. |
| Point de Bute. | Local arrangement. |
| Bale de Verte. | do. |
| Moncton. | The brethren Wilson and Dutcher. |
| Coverdale. | Bro. Currie. |
| Shediac. | Bro. Currie. |
| Dorchester. | Local arrangement. |
| Hopewell. | do. |
| Hillsboro. | The Brethren Currie and Wilson. |
| Havelock. | Local arrangement. |
| Salisbury. | do. |
| Elgin. | Brother Baker. |

The time for holding the several meetings on the above circuits to be arranged by the respective superintendents during the latter part of the present ecclesiastical year, and the offerings given by collections and subscriptions to be passed to a fund called the "Circuit Aid Society" and to be equitably appropriated at the Annual Dist. Meeting. This arrangement is inaugurated on the assurance that no diminution of the church shall sustain any diminution compared with the previous year.

On the morning of the 21st inst., a fair congregation assembled at the Salisbury Church for prayer and supplication for the higher benediction to descend upon Zion that scores of souls might be won for Christ. A holyunction preceded the services.

This ended a most profitable Convention and all returned somewhat hopeful of many gathered sheaves ere the year had passed and pleased with the manner by which the Assembly was begun, conducted and ended.

December 26th, 1877.

A NEW AMERICAN SCIENCE EXPEDITION.

Professor Alexander Agassiz is starting for Havana with an assistant, there to go on board the Coast Survey steamer Blake, which has just sailed on a surveying cruise, that will occupy this winter, in the work of obtaining soundings in the Gulf of Mexico. As this work is conducted, it is made no less useful to terrestrial physics and natural history than to navigation. By a study of the animals dredged from the bottom of the Gulf, Professor Agassiz will be enabled to make important comparisons with the fauna of the Atlantic and especially as to growth, habits, migrations, and changes of living forms found in the waters near the British Islands and the Scandinavian Peninsula. The expedition is under the command of Lieutenant Commander Charles D. Sigbee.

HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA, NEWFOUNDLAND, AND BERMUDA.

BY THE REV. T. WATSON SMITH.
Vol. I. Pp. 491. Price \$1.50. Methodist Book Room, Halifax, N. S.

To read the story of the heroic achievements, trials and triumphs of the pioneer founders of Methodism in this land is an inspiration to duty, to faith, and to zeal in the cause of God. And in no portion of the Dominion was the planting of Methodism a grander work or beset with greater difficulties than in the old Maritime Province. This History fitly embodies and preserves for our profit and delight the records of those brave days of old. Methodism is the child of Providence. Both in the Old World and the New it

was rocked in a rude cradle and met with stern buffetings. But it developed thereby a grand moral strength and force of character which have made it one of the most aggressive forms of Church organizations in the world.

In the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, the rigours of the climate, the sparseness of the population and the political and military complications resulting from the war of American Independence made the labours of the early missionaries all the more arduous. Much light is thrown upon the civil history of Canada by this volume. The fidelity to their sovereign of the loyalist exiles from the revolted colonies, among whom were ancestors of our own, is one of the grandest records in the annals of our country. These were the brave true-hearted men, who, forsaking often ease and comfort, houses and lands, developed this great northern nation as the fairest possession of the British Crown.

"Thousands of men, women and children," says our author, "after sorrowful farewells, had gone on board ship, and with the flag of Britain to the fore, had sailed away to seek new homes in the wildernesses of Nova Scotia. Late in the autumn they were joined by several thousands more of loyalists and disbanded troops, whose privations during the long and severe winter which followed, are still kept in memory at the fireside of many of their descendants."

Many of the names which appear among those early annals were those whose fame had filled two continents. The memories of Garretson, Cromwell, Cook and others link Maritime Methodism intimately with that of the United States and of the motherland. But the central figure in the history of Nova Scotia Methodism is that of William Black

He was a grand character—a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and of intense and undying zeal. "To him," says our author, "belongs the high honour of having developed, in no small degree, in the heart of Coke that missionary spirit which never ceased to impel him, until his body found a resting place, nearly thirty years later, in the Indian Ocean." The story of the life and labours of Black reads like a romance. His journeys through pathless forests and on stormy seas, his adventures in winter morasses, his encounter with French privateers, his persecution by men clothed with a little authority, and, above all, the wonderful religious success of his labours, give to these records a fascinating interest.

In the Bermuda Islands, although they were favoured with the ministrations of Whitfield, the persecution of Methodism was exceedingly virulent. For years might be read on the cedar floor of his cell the following inscription cut by a prisoner for conscience sake:—

JOHN STEPHENSON,
METHODIST MISSIONARY,
WAS IMPRISONED IN THIS JAIL
SIX MONTHS,
AND FINED FIFTY POUNDS,
FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF
JESUS CHRIST
TO AFRICAN BLACKS AND
CAPTIVE NEGROES.
ST. GEORGE'S, BERMUDA,
JUNE, 1801.

But notwithstanding this persecution, the Word of God grew and prevailed, till Methodism to day is one of the most powerful elements in the religious life of those sunny islands.

Mr. Smith has done his work as a historian well. He has been indefatigable in gathering exact information. He has digested it into an easy flowing narrative. His graces of style still further enhance the intense interest of the subject. The publisher has presented the book in an elegant dress,—clear, bold type, and handsome binding. We had marked several passages for quotation and comment, but limits of space at present prevent. We recommend our readers to procure it for themselves. It will do good both to their heads and their hearts. We shall await with interest the concluding volume of this History, and trust that the success of this first volume will warrant the speedy production of the second.—Canadian Methodist Magazine.