

Western Methodist Recorder.

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* Editorial. *

Anniversary of British Columbian Methodism.

With this month comes round the 41st anniversary of the establishment of Methodism in this province, and the editors have endeavored to make the present number of the Recorder of special interest to our readers with reference to that fact. With the lapse of time, the beginnings of great movements and great institutions are more earnestly required into; by the time the centenary rolls round there will probably be a half million Methodists in this province who will want to know all that can be told of Bryant and Robson, and White and Evans, and Browning and others, of the early heroes who did such self-sacrificing work on this coast. Already there are many thousands who will most eagerly read anything written of those early days; we are grateful therefore to be able to present such reliable historical articles as may be found in this issue, together with portraits and other cuts indicating the past and present of our work. Our first page presents the likeness of our venerable friend, Rev. Cornelius Bryant, who no longer ago than 1856 was the one solitary member of the Methodist church in the colony. Now we have a membership of nearly 5,000, and a following which can hardly be less than 20,000 to 25,000. The three appointments established in 1859 on arrival of the missionaries, have grown into a Conference with seven districts and upwards of sixty circuits or missions, with work not only among the white population, but also to the Indians, Chinese and Japanese. When the many difficulties incident to the prosecution of Christian work in those early days, and in so rugged a country, are rightly appre-

ciated, many devoted Methodists throughout the Conference will be full of gratitude and will exclaim as their spiritual kinsfolk have often been led to do: "What hath God wrought?" The future, too, in view of the present and the past must be considered full of promise; there are well nigh infinite possibilities before us if we rightly brace ourselves and prepare ourselves for it. What the measure and character of our future success will be will largely depend upon the consecration and courage of our own spirits. We are perhaps in danger of a formal and superficial type of religious character; it is possible to popularize our church instead of our Christ to please and entertain rather than lead our fellow mortals to "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world." To us who are preachers of the gospel a strong and time appeal is made in the sparkling article by Principal Sipprell appearing in another column. It is strong, but not too strong, in emphasizing for us all that amid all the multiplicity of our ministerial duties our first and supreme responsibility is to be clear, strong preachers of "the everlasting gospel." May we turn to the task before us with hope and courage, and complete consecration.

Rev. J. F. Betts, of New Westminster, paid a visit to Victoria early in the month in the interests of Columbian College. He is making a determined effort to raise for the College on the 'T. C. T. P. \$6,000, as proposed by the Board, and he is fully convinced from his success to date that this sum is well within the ability of the Conference. If we can add a word calculated to assist Bro. Betts in this undertaking we shall be only too glad to do it. The disposition of our people has undoubtedly been to underestimate the importance of this institution, and this to a considerable extent, accounts for the stringent circumstances which for several years it had to face. It is now, however, in a most hopeful condition. Principal Sipprell and his staff are doing excellent work, and the Directors are pursuing a policy which is at once one of business caution and Christian courage; if their hands are now strengthened with the moderate assistance they are asking, and which the College most certainly merits, the dawn of the new century will find it pushed forward into a position of which we shall be proud, and which will be of immense value to the energetic and growing Methodism of this province.

We are happy to give prominence to the fact that the utterances attributed to Dr. Carman by a Barrie, Ont., newspaper, in which he was supposed to have said that the British reverses in South Africa were God's chastisement upon Great Britain for the sin of the rum traffic, opium trade, etc., existing in the nation, have been emphatically and absolutely repudiated by him. Dr. Carman declares that he said "nothing of the

kind," and that such a statement must have originated in the incapacity of his reporter to follow the argument of his discourse. The General Superintendent is, on the contrary, a firm believer in the British Empire, which he declares to be, despite many faults and shortcomings, the noblest form of Government the world has yet seen.

We wish to call the attention of our Victoria readers to the fact that the President of the Methodist Council has decided to call a meeting of the Council on Monday, March 12th, at 8 p.m. This early announcement is most commendable for such an important organization, and should result in a full attendance of the members on the evening named. In another column will be found a communication from one of our most energetic and representative laymen (signed "Verax") pointing out the advantages to be derived from the Council when once it is properly established. We might do far worse than ponder over our correspondent's remarks on the subject in the interval between now and the 12th prox.

We hear from many parts of the Conference joyful news of revival work. Last month Homer Street, Vancouver, rejoiced in a glorious ingathering. Dunsmuir on the Island and Victoria West were also blessed, and now good news has reached us from Wallace street, Nanaimo; Centennial, Victoria, and Kamloops. These blessings are accompanying the strong efforts being made throughout the Conference in connection with the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund, and are the prompt fulfilment of the Divine promise, Mat. 3:10.

It is understood that Miss Armonson will give another of her recitals in Victoria on Tuesday, March 6th. These recitals have been so exceedingly popular that we feel sure our friends will thank us for mentioning the date, so

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