

Current Topics and Events.

CENTENNIAL OF CANADIAN METHODISM.

The year 1891 marks the Centennial of two very important events in the history of Canadian Methodism. (1) The hundredth anniversary of the introduction of Methodism into Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. (2) The death of the honoured instrument in the hands of God by whom the original Methodist societies were organized. It is eminently fitting that this remarkable coincidence of events should not be overlooked, but should be loyally commemorated by suitable thanksgiving and thank-offering services. John Wesley died on March 2, 1791, "one of the greatest of God's Englishmen," of that century, as he is called by Mr. Stead. The late General Conference gave instructions that anniversary services should be held throughout the Connexion on Sunday, March 1, 1891; and that voluntary collections should everywhere be taken for some object to be designated by the Annual Conferences. The time of the year at which these meetings were appointed to be held is perhaps not the most favourable for anniversaries and contributions. It is possible, also, that through lack of some definite object and definite amount set before our people there may not be the enthusiasm and organized effort to worthily commemorate those events. The Annual Conference Special Committees may, however, do much to give the required stimulus by indicating suitable objects and methods of reaching definite sums.

If it were possible to completely wipe out the indebtedness of \$40,000, or thereabouts, now resting upon the Embarrassed Trusts, which indebtedness was largely incurred through the recent union which has been so signally owned and blessed of God, it would be something monumental, and

would be a perpetual benediction to the Church.

There are also other worthy objects which appeal strongly to our sympathy and support. The meagre incomes of the labourers of the Home Mission fields, the need for more adequate support for the faithful veterans worn out in the service of the Church, and for the widows and orphan children of those who have died in harness, and the urgent need for a greatly enlarged building and endowment fund for the Federated Victoria University: all these furnish worthy objects for thank-offering to God for the signal mercies and prosperity vouchsafed to us as a Church during one hundred years.

CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL VOLUME.

It was also authorized by the General Conference that a memorial volume on the various aspects of Canadian Methodism should be issued in connection with this Centennial celebration. Much progress has already been made in that direction. We trust that the volume will speedily be completed and sent to the press. The true history of Methodism in these lands is largely written on the tombstones of many a lonely graveyard, where its pioneer fathers and founders sleep in peace. Others still survive among us, the memory of whom goes far back to the stirring days of early Methodism. It is highly important that the memories that otherwise would soon perish from the earth should be gathered up and placed on permanent record. Such a volume could not fail to be of great interest and value.

At no time previous would it have been possible to prepare the story of the diverse streams which have come together in the broad tide of Methodist influence in this land. But now, without a shade of unkindliness, without a harsh or unbrotherly word,