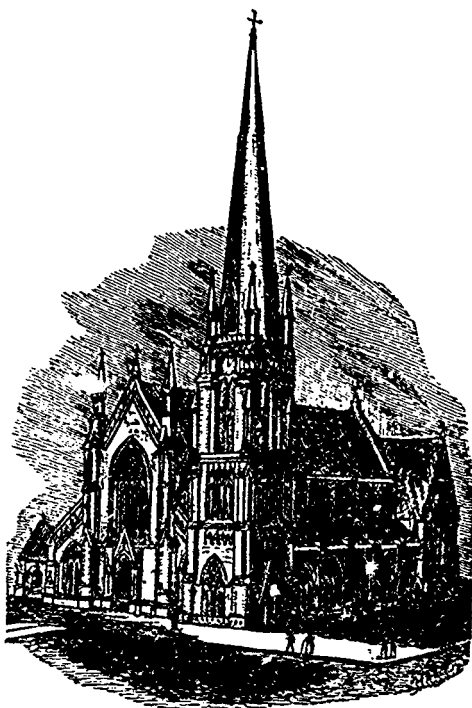


NEW CENTENARY CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N.B.

OUR friends at St. John are to be congratulated upon the successful completion of one of the noblest specimens of Gothic architecture in Canada. Through illness, the Rev. George Douglas, LL.D., President of the General Conference, was unable to be present at the dedication, and his absence necessarily caused a change in the original programme. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. John Lathern, of Windsor, N.S., and that in the evening by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Currie. Both Mr. Lathern and Mr. Currie are effective platform speakers, and their able discourses were listened to by probably the largest audiences ever gathered to worship in this city. Fully two thousand people were present at the morning and evening service. It was a grand and imposing sight to see this large and elegant building filled to its utmost capacity. The dedicatory part of the service was in the morning after the sermon, and was performed by the pastor. The church was presented for dedication on behalf of the trustees by Captain Prichard. The Centenary Church is in every sense a monumental and historic one. It was first dedicated in August, 1839, to commemorate the completion of the centennial of the founding of British Methodism. The dedicatory sermon on that occasion was preached by the Rev. M. Richey,



D.D. By a singular coincidence the present edifice is dedicated in 1882, the centennial year of Methodism in these Maritime Provinces. In 1782, the venerated William Black was the first Methodist minister to preach in these Provinces. A century has wonderfully developed the Methodist churches in Canada. To-day they have about 1,500 ministers and 720,000 adherents. We rejoice with our Methodist friends in their efforts to rebuild the old Centenary. This church is a credit to a great religious denomination and an ornament to the city.

The first movement to build the

* We are indebted to the courtesy of the publisher of the *St. John Weekly Sun*, for the use of a cut of this beautiful church, which, when its noble spire is added, will be one of the finest church edifices in Canada. The following report is condensed from the full newspaper accounts.