

EARLY PIONEERS

REV. LAURENCE COUGHLAN

was converted in Ireland about eight years after Methodism reached that country. At the same time and place another young man was also awakened—Philip Embury, a carpenter by trade. Although they gave no promise then of great ability, yet they became the instruments, in the hands of Providence, of spreading Methodism to the Western Hemisphere. The former planted Methodism in Newfoundland, and in the following year (1766) the latter did the same in the City of New York. Three years after Coughlan's conversion he became one of Wesley's itinerant preachers, and for ten years travelled in Britain with marked success.

At Mr. Wesley's request Coughlan received ordination from the then Bishop of London in order that he might be able to administer the Sacraments, and the Society for Propagation of Christian Knowledge in foreign parts sent him out as their agent, assuming the financial responsibility.

But though episcopally ordained Coughlan never forgot the years spent with Wesley. His own words to Mr. Wesley, in a letter dated 1772, were: "I am, and do confess myself, a Methodist."

Newfoundland was then one circuit, with Harbour Grace for its headquarters; there, as in other places, many souls were converted to God during his seven years of faithful toil. When Coughlan returned to England in 1773 he left "two hundred communicants" and had "kindled a fire in this land that should never be extinguished."

For 12 years between the departure of Rev. L. Coughlan and the arrival of Rev. John McGeary, the Societies were most faithfully looked after by Messrs. John Stretton, Arthur Thomey and T. Pottle, zealous laymen of Harbour Grace.

REV. JOHN McGEARY

was the successor of Coughlan, and the first preacher appointed to Newfoundland by Mr. Wesley, and reached here in 1785. His circuit also included the whole Colony, but he changed his headquarters to Carbonear in 1791. He returned to England in 1792.

REV. WILLIAM BLACK

was born at Huddersfield, Yorks, England, in 1760, and came to Nova Scotia in 1765. In 1781 he had the whole of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for his circuit. In 1791 he visited Newfoundland, landing at St. John's on the 10th of August, where "after remaining one day he walked to Portugal Cove, and there, in an open fishing boat, crossed Conception Bay to Carbonear, a distance of seven leagues, where he met Mr. McGeary," to the latter's great joy. Under his preaching during that visit 200 accepted Christ. He also organized Methodism, settled the Mission property, and thus established the work Coughlan began. The Apostle of Nova Scotia died 1834.

REV. GEORGE SMITH

followed McGeary on the Circuit, making Carbonear his headquarters until 1796, but extended the work northward as far as Greenspond. In 1796, being reinforced by Rev. William Thoresby, he resided at Bonavista where he successfully established Methodism. Mr. Smith returned to England in 1797. Died 1832.