

Their first effort was the holding of an old-fashioned Soiree or Tea Meeting, on Friday, the 2nd day of February, 1866. The lecture room of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Corner of Metcalfe and Queen Streets where the Dominion Methodist Church now stands, was generously placed at their disposal by the Trustees for the occasion.

The *Ottawa Times* of Saturday, February 3rd, gives the following account of this affair:

"The Soiree which took place in the basement of the Wesleyan Methodist Church last evening, was one of the largest ever held there, upward of 800 persons were present, completely filling the room. The edibles were all that could be desired, and a most efficient choir enlivened the proceedings.

"The chair was taken at 8 p.m. by the Rev. Mr. Wardrope. Among those on the platform, we noted the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, Professor Webster, the Revs. J. Dowce, H. J. McLardy, Wm. Finlay, Wm. Lundy, Joseph Elliott, Wm. Beeson, D. McPhail and Col. Reddington of Ogdensburg, N. Y.

"The chairman, in a few well-chosen words, introduced as the first speaker of the evening, the Rev. Joseph Elliott, who said it gave him great pleasure to be called on to address the large audience he saw before him. He spoke of the work of Knox and of Wesley, and regarded it as a happy omen that the first soiree of the new Presbyterian Church should be held in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and hoped that a friendly feeling such as now exists would long continue, and finally spoke in glowing terms of the prosperity and prospects of Ottawa.

"The Hon. Malcolm Cameron was the next speaker, and the reporter says he delivered an eloquent and impressive address closing in his usual witty style.

"Professor Webster took for his text: 'What do we want, and why do we want it?' and fully acquitted himself to the satisfaction of all present.

"The Rev. H. J. McLardy referred to the Christian Charity and good feeling prevailing among the churches of the city, and gave an interesting account of the hardships of ministerial life in the pioneer settlements of New Brunswick, his native Province.

"Col. Reddington was listened to with the closest attention while he described the amicable feeling and generous rivalry which he believed then existed between the people of the two neighboring countries, Canada and the United States, and expressed the hope that the