

Methodism in Prince Edward Island.

"When He first the work begun,
Small and feeble was His day;
Now the Word doth swiftly run,
Now it wins its widening way."

—*Charles Wesley.*

"A hundred years ago! What then?
There rose the world to bless,
A little band of faithful men,
A cloud of witnesses."

—*James Montgomery.*

METHODISM in Prince Edward Island dates from 1774. On the 31st day of May in that year, Mr. Benjamin Chappell and his wife reached this Province—then known as the Island of St. John's—and settled in New London, on the North side of the Island. In October, 1778, they removed to Charlottetown and "set in motion a train of measures" that resulted in the introduction and organization of the Methodist Church. Mr. Chappell was born in London, England, in 1740, and was the son of worthy and God-fearing parents. Mr. Wesley—under whose ministry he was converted—mentions him with respect in the fourth volume of his Journal, and maintained a correspondence with him to the end of his life. In his later years Mr. Chappell was wont to repeat with apparent delight incidents arising from his intimate acquaintance with the Founder of Methodism, and extracts from letters received from him bearing upon the progress of the work of God in this colony. Mr. Chappell was a man of integrity and considerable ability. In 1779 he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly, "and after having been engaged in several departments of the public service," was in 1802 appointed "Postmaster of the colony"—which position he held during the remainder of his life. From the time of his arrival in the colony, he was deeply impressed with the spiritual destitution of the inhabitants, and at once organized the distinctive and peculiar services of Methodism—which without interruption have been continued to the present time. This godly and devoted man ended his journey on the 6th day of January, 1825, in the 83rd year of his age. The late Rev. Dr. Richey, who visited him in 1823, referred to him, when "bending over the tomb under the accumulated infirmities of extreme old age," as remarkably clear and collected in mind; ready after a life of irreproachable godliness, to be offered up; and awaiting not only without fear, but in joyful anticipation the hour of his departure from earth. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors: for their works follow after them."