

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

In the month of May, 1868, the Rev. George Young left Toronto to inaugurate Methodist Mission Work in Winnipeg, the capital of the newly formed Province of Manitoba. Mr. Young arrived July 4th, and at once began work. At that time there were but four persons in the whole settlement who had been members of the Methodist Church elsewhere. The first class in Manitoba was formed at High Bluff in September, '68, and consisted of 12 persons.

For several months, Rev. Mr. Young held service at Winnipeg in the little log. court house, which stood to the north-west of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s Fort.

After great difficulty a building was secured, situated where the Merchant's hotel now stands, corner of Main Street and Portage Avenue. A large front room was used as a chapel. This was opened for worship December 20th, 1868, and a class of six persons was formed. The congregation continued to occupy this building till July 1869, when they moved into the new Mission House situated where the first Grace Church afterwards stood, on Main Street, near the present site of the Manitoba hotel. The lower flat of the Mission was used as a church, while the Missionary and his family lived upstairs. The first Grace Church was dedicated by Rev. George Young in September, 1871. During the famous "Boom" of 1880 and 1881, a block of stores was built on Main Street enclosing the church. The congregation worshipped in a spacious building upstairs, called Wesley Hall, and while this hall was being fitted up worship was conducted in the skating rink. The present Grace

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