

Synopsis of the History of the Baptist Church at Prince William, N. B., from 1800 A. D. to 1900 A. D.

BY REV. J. A. CAHILL.

According to well preserved records it appears that the Prince William Baptist church had its birth on November 26 and 27. The minister through whose instrumentality this church was planted was the Rev. Edward Manning, of precious memory. It appears that among the people such an organization had been agitated for some time. The visit of God's servant to this place was considered Providential,—the Lord's time to form a church. Hence on November 26 and 27, 1800, Saturday and Sunday, at meetings held at the house of Mr. Stephen Young, forty-seven persons came forward, related a gospel experience, were baptized, received the hand of fellowship and the Lord's Supper, and were thus formed into a church of the Lord Jesus. The work from this went on until in January, 1802, or fourteen months after the birth of the church, there were 100 members. A quotation from the minutes will give an idea of the spiritual tone of the church at this time, February 4, 1802, "It is impossible for us mortals to express what our souls feel at these blessed seasons, but to be still and know that there is a G. d. Bless his name the work is his."

In the records we find no mention of the building or dedication of the first house of worship. On September 4, 1819, we find the church met in the meeting house in Conference, which is the first mention of a house. Fifty years ago this autumn the old house was abandoned. A contract made for the building of the present house. On March 21, 1852, the new house was opened for the worship of God. The ministers present were Rev. T. W. Saunders, pastor of the church, who presided, Geo. Rigby, G. F. Miles, William Harris and Thos. Todd. An early meeting was led by Bro. Miles. The dedication sermon was preached by William Harris. In the afternoon Thos. Todd preached and in the evening Geo. F. Miles, and on Monday, 11 a. m., Geo. Rigby. Thus closed the dedication services of the present house of worship. About ten years ago the inside of the house was remodeled and now at the close of this our one hundredth year we have dressed the outside in better and more becoming attire.

MEMBERS.

So far as can be ascertained by the records during the century past about 400 souls have been baptized and received into the fellowship of this church. These have gone out from the old spiritual home to many parts of the world and a large majority have crossed the river with the pale boatman and joined the church triumphant on the other shore. The influence of these here on earth as they have gone forth and carried with them the Christ-life, eternity alone can unfold. The history of this church has been much like the swing of a pendulum. First up, then down. A season of spiritual uplifting and ingathering followed by a time of spiritual declension and darkness.

MINISTERS.

The ministers whose names are closely related to the history of this church are, first, Rev. Edward Manning, who organized the church. This man was a giant in Israel. Powerful in body and powerful in mind, and having power with God he had great power over men. God wonderfully blessed his abundant labors. He died on January 12, 1851, at Canard, N. S. Rev. Elijah Estabrooks, whose grandchildren and great grandchildren are among our best workers, made the church frequent visits, baptized, and preached to them the Word of Life. Joseph Crandall, James Manning, Theodore S. Harding, Mr. Coy and James Tupper visited this church as traveling evangelists and were instrumental in building up the Christ Kingdom in this place.

PASTORS.

The first regular pastor of the church was Rev. Lothrop Hammond. He was baptized in 1807 by Rev. E. Estabrook. He was ordained in 1810 and continued pastor till 1837. He was strong in mind, wise in counsel, and an able expounder of God's truth. This brother was succeeded by Rev. T. W. Saunders, who was baptized June 4, 1827, by Rev. L. Hammond. The sterling worth and superior gifts of Bro. Saunders were soon recognized by his brethren. After serving the church as deacon for some time he was ordained in 1832. In that year there was a request sent from the church to the Association which met in Fredericton that they would send brethren to advise as to Bro. Saunders' ordination. In compliance with that request Elders Jos. Crandall, David Harris and L. Hammond met the church and ordained Dea. T. W. Saunders as an evangelist. He was chosen pastor of the church in 1838, which office he held until 1875, when because of infirmity of years he was unable longer to serve the church. He died in May, 1887. He was a man of commanding presence, sound in doctrine, wise in counsel, and a clear preacher of the plan of life through Christ. Today all over this country his memory is fragrant. The pastors since 1875 until the present have been Jos. A. Cahill, J. H. Coy, C. Currie, B. N. Hughes, C. Currie (second time), H. D. Worden, M. B. Whitman, Joshua Goodwin, F. B. Seeley and J. A. Cahill (second

time). During all these years and by all these men the good seed of the kingdom was sown. Some sow and others reap. In the later history of the church the names of the late J. W. S. Young and Issiah Wallace are prominent. These men of God labored with the church upon different occasions and their labors were blessed to the conversion of souls.

DEACONS.

The first deacons were John Barker and John Manzer. We have but little of the history of these brethren. Bro. Barker died in 1824, and Bro. Manzer moved to the Nashwaak. Among the other brethren who filled the office were Bros. Young, Parent, Atherton, Estey and Currie. The two prominent deacons in the memory of this generation were John B. Courser and William McAdam. These men loved the Lord and loved his church, which they faithfully served. Bro. McAdam, full of years, passed away to the home above in the winter of 1876. To fill this vacancy Bro. Philip Hoyte was chosen, the duties of which office he has since performed to the satisfaction of his brethren. Deacon Courser moved to St. John and has since been called to the higher service. To fill that vacancy Bro. Moses Y. Saunders, son of the late Rev. T. W. Saunders, was chosen, and our brother fills the office with an eye single to the glory of God. Besides these we have by voice of the church Deacons Moses Jewett and James Kelley. To these last named we look for burden bearers. They are young and strong in faith, zealous for the Master's cause and anxious for the prosperity of the church whose servants they are.

CLERKS.

The first clerk of this church was Bro. William West. How long he served we do not know. He died in 1839. After this we have the record of Simon Hammond, Michael McNally, Charles W. Marsh, N. Wheeler, Z. Currie and Bro. John B. Courser. These men all held the office and in a commendable way performed the duties connected with it. On September 4, 1863, Bro. Leverett Estabrooks by vote of church was made clerk. For nearly forty years this brother has faithfully and to the satisfaction of his brethren performed the duties thus entrusted to him. All these years the interests of the church have been dear to him. In all the trials through which she has passed the church has found in our clerk a true friend, as well as a continuous and liberal supporter. May he with all the officers of this church long be spared to serve the church they love and then be rewarded by the Heavenly Father.

Our present number of members is fifty-two,—small count indeed for all these years. The history of this church, like the history of all God's people on earth, is somewhat checkered and broken. It is similar to the history of our own individual lives,—far from what we would have them. Discordant elements have often marred its beauty and Christ-likeness. Yet we believe that from this church have gone out influences which will be felt all down through the centuries. Many whose names were not enrolled on our book down here will through the spiritual power of this church as a means be registered in the Lamb's Book of Life. And though our history be marred here by sin and infirmity, when we awake in his likeness and stand before the King, then we shall be without spot or blemish or any defect. When the roll is called up yonder may we all be there.

ON

Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

The Convention of Ontario and Quebec, was held with the First church in Woodstock, Ont., Oct. 15th to 19th. The first session was held on Monday evening, Oct. 15th, when Mr. John Stark of Toronto, the retiring president, gave the

ANNUAL ADDRESS

on "some conditions of success past and present." The address reviewed the history of the denomination from the time when Canada had a population of only 200,000, and only three Baptist churches, till now, when the Dominion can claim a population of 5,000,000, and there are 520 Baptist churches. For the future, the address urged the prosecution of evangelistic work through city missions, a Gospel Boat for the lake ports, and a deeper sense of Christian stewardship.

THE ELECTION.

resulted in the choice of Rev. S. S. Bates, pastor at College street, Toronto, for President; Mr. D. W. Karn, a manufacturer in Woodstock, as First Vice; Rev. W. M. Walker of London, Second Vice; Rev. D. M. Mihell of St. George as Secretary-Treasurer.

HOME MISSIONS.

The report reviewed the rise and progress of this cause. The first society was organized in Montreal in 1836. In 1843, a society for Western Canada was founded. In 1851 the regular Baptist Missionary Society was founded and this was the parent of the present Board. In 1868, there were in the east and west, 50 missionaries, 113 stations, 212 baptisms, and an income of \$8,223.95. Today there are 154 missionaries, an income of over \$22,000 and during the past year there have been 9 churches organized, 5 chapels built, 3 edifices enlarged, 6 parsonages erected, 1052 persons baptized, and 618 received by letter. Our territory now extends from Fort Francis west to Sawyerville east, 1600 miles; and from Lake Erie south, to Temiscamingue, north, 400 miles. The treasurer reported an adverse balance of \$1,280.00, which is shortly to be removed.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

See'y J. G. Brown, who succeeded Dr. McDiarmid, has had a busy year, but we all realize that his seven years' of experience in India are worth much in his present position. One of his tasks has been the raising of \$55,000 for his department; and every one rejoiced, when he reported that all claims had been met, and that there was a balance in the treasury. The work in Bolivia flourishes. Mr. Routledge at La Paz has opened an English College. Rev. A. G. Baker and wife and Miss Gill are soon to join him. Mr. Reckie in Oruro, finds that his school will maintain him. Rev. A. C. Mitchell and wife went to his aid last April, and are now beginning work in the Spanish language.

The year in India has been fruitful. There is an area of 3,370 square miles, with a population of 1,352,000. In that field we have 33 churches, 4,000 members, 73 native preachers, 81 teachers, 7 colporteurs, 15 Bible women, 136 Sunday Schools, with 3,387 pupils, day schools with 961 scholars, 7 boarding schools with 182 pupils, and the contributions from native churches amounted to \$1,380.30. Four new missionaries are now en route.

GRANDE LIGNE.

The Feller Institute has had 126 resident pupils, and 84 applicants were refused for lack of room. There were 21 conversions in the school. In the Ottawa Valley there are 20 French Baptist families. During the year there were visits 291, conversations 195, cottage meetings, 84, tracts 1117, New Testaments and gospels, 62, conversions 5, attendance at meetings, 2,089.

The St. Roch mission in Quebec and the Bethany mission in Montreal, were vigorously worked. The five churches of the Montreal district report a good year. In Nova Scotia, Mr. and Mrs. Grenier, and in Rothwell, Man., Mr. Rouleau, have faithfully sown the seed. The French churches contributed \$2,000, the total receipts were \$19,000.00, and the books were closed with a small balance in our favor.

SUPERANNUATION.

The report was presented Oct. 17th, which was the thirty-sixth anniversary of the organization of the Society. During that time \$32,600 have been distributed. The present capital is \$20,737.00 and the Society has a quarter interest in the Publication Board. The annuitants are 17, who receive about \$2000. All claims have been fully met.

PUBLICATION BOARD.

Sales at the Book Room were \$17,297.60, and the gross profits were \$6,250.56. Yet, owing to the cost of management and keen competition, there was an actual loss of \$604. The subscription list of the Baptist was increased by 1210 names, 728 were dropped, leaving a gain of 428.

NORTHWEST MISSIONS.

The English work is most encouraging. There are 69 churches, 3692 members, 175 stations, \$44,115.78 were raised for local purposes, and \$6,245.70 were contributed for education and missions.

The German and Icelandic missions have been vigorously pushed, especially in and about Winnipeg, while the work among the Indians was never more progressive. George Bergdorff and Sylvester Musho, who have suffered persecution in Russia, have toiled among the Galicians, travelling thousands of miles, holding hundreds of meetings, selling 200 Testaments, and distributing 15,000 pages of evangelistic literature.

In British Columbia, there are 9 districts, in all of which earnest efforts have been put forth. The Convention of this province has adopted Rev. A. A. McLeod of India, and sustains him through the Ontario Board. A flourishing Japanese mission is maintained in the city of Victoria.

EDUCATION.

Chancellor Wallace presented a very encouraging report. The enrolment in the university was 207. Of these, 172 took Arts and 19 Theology. There were 25 ladies, of whom, one took Theology. Of the 35 graduates in Arts, everyone was a Christian.

In Woodstock College there were 139 enrolled, an increase of 14 over the preceding year. The Manual Training Department has been recognized by the School of Practical Science in Toronto, and the Massachusetts School of Technology, as an elective. The boys came from Chicago, New York, Porto Rico, Newfoundland, Australia, England, Scotland, Colorado; showing the wide spread influence of the school. The spiritual tone of the school was most gratifying, and there were 25 students for the ministry.

In Moulton Ladies' College the enrolment was 207, of whom 60 were boarders. Excellent work was done, and the spiritual condition was gratifying. An attempt was made to raise \$35,000 for enlargement of buildings in the University, but owing to increase in the price of labor and material, this sum was found insufficient. However, it is expected that a new chapel will be opened in 1901.

THE STATE OF RELIGION.

This was one of the most important reports of the Convention, by Mr. E. O. White of Toronto, a genius in statistics. In the 18 associations of Ontario and Quebec there are 464 churches with 43,345 members. There were 2160 baptisms, being 346 more than the preceding year. There were 173 churches that report no baptisms; 42 show one; 44, two; 30 others report 733. There are 312 churches with less than 100 members, including 14,449 members with 741 baptisms. Churches of 100 to 200 members number in all 13,717 members, and they report 760 baptisms. There are 44 churches of over 200 members including a membership of 15,099. They report 659 baptisms. Looking over the past quarter of a century, there were in 1871-5, a total of 6,136 baptisms; from 1876-80, the large increase of 12,584. From that time there was a decrease until 1899, when the baptisms were only 1806.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The committee reported 34,570 scholars on roll, 24,144 average attendance, 6487 members of the church, 1154 joined during the year. From these there came for