

Michigan. — 269 Woodward Ave.,
Trois-Rivières, Mich.

POTTS, Rev. John (Meth.), was b. at Maguire's Bridge, Co. Fermanagh, Irel., 1838. Coming to Am. when 17 yrs. of age, he lived for a time in the southern States, but eventually took up his residence in Ont., where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. Originally an Episcopalian in religion, he became a Meth. under the spiritual guidance of the late Rev. Dr. Douglas, and, later, studied for the ministry at Victoria Univ., Cobourg, where he had already entered in the Arts dept. His period of probation was passed on circuit at Markham and other places, and while at Thorold, 1861, he was received into full connection and ordained. His first appt. as a min. was to North St. Ch., London, as asst. to the Rev. Rich. Jones. From there, at the expiration of his term, he was sent to Bloor St. Ch., Toronto, and associated with the Rev. Dr. Dewart, then at Elm St. Ch. Such was the estimation in which the young clergyman was held that, in 1866, he was chosen to be first pastor of a new ch. in Hamilton, to commemorate the centenary of Am. Methodism, and thus became, within the short space of 10 yrs., the min. in a cong. of which he had formerly been a mem. and Sunday Sch. teacher. "Mr. P.'s acceptance of this charge," we are told by Mr. Rose, to whose work on "Can. Biography" we are indebted for nearly all the facts embraced in this article, "was at first opposed by the Conf. Stationing Comte.; but their misgivings as to the ability of the young clergyman to fill the ch. soon proved to be groundless, for such were his talents and popularity and so forcible was his preaching that Sunday after Sunday multitudes flocked to hear the Word spoken by his mouth." While at Hamilton, Mr. P. was invited to Toronto to take charge of the ch. in Adelaide St., but fearing that the time he would have to devote to the superintendence of the building of the Metropolitan Ch., then in course

of erection, would interfere with what he considered to be strictly ministerial work, he declined the call, and accepted that of St. James St., Montréal, which had been simultaneously placed at his disposal, in succession to his old friend, the Rev. Dr. Douglas. Equal success attended Mr. P. in this his new field, and after a space of 3 yrs. he returned to Toronto and was placed in charge of the Metropolitan Ch. in that city, where he rapidly increased the number of the cong. At the close of his ministration there he was again removed to Elm St. Ch. Mr. P. is a staunch supporter of Temp., having first advocated its cause when only 15. He is also connected with the M. C. A. and the Bible Soc. He is one of the Dom. representatives on the Internl. Comte. which selects the lessons for Sunday Schs. all over the world. A mem. of the Bd. and Senate of Victoria Univ., he is likewise a mem. of the Bd. of the Wesl. Theol. Coll., Montréal, and also a mem. of the comte. which has charge of the publishing interests of the Methodist Ch. In 1878 he was elected the first Presdt. of an assn. which was then formed in Toronto, embracing ministers of all denominations. In July of that year the Wesl. Univ. of Ohio admitted him to the degree of D.D. On the death of Dr. Topp, he was apptd., in 1879, to succeed him as Chairman of the Home for Incurables. At the Genl. Conf. of 1886, Dr. P. was elected Genl. Secy. of Education for the Meth. Ch., which office he holds at the present time. At the Convocation of Victoria Univ., 1894, the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the unanimous vote of the Senate. Dr. P. was stationed twice in St. James Ch., Montréal, twice in the Metropolitan Ch., Toronto, and twice in Elm St. Ch., Toronto. Upon many occasions he has been asked to represent Can. Meth. in the U. S. A Meth. of the Methodists, he is a man of the most liberal views; believing that true religion is hedged in by no sectarian