

KNOX CHURCH, CORNWALL.

Diamond Jubilee.

The sixtieth anniversary of the formation of Knox Church, Cornwall, was celebrated on Sabbath and Monday evening, June 17 and 18. Rev. Prof. McKenzie, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, preached both morning and evening. His sermons were well chosen and appropriate to the occasion. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, the church was well filled at both services.

On Monday evening Prof. McKenzie lectured on "Lessons from the Life of Gladstone." The lecture was a great treat, for the professor always does things well. The choir rendered special music, to the delight of the congregation. One of the interesting parts of the programme was an historical sketch of the congregation from its beginning. Mrs. Smart, who heard Rev. W. C. Burns sixty years ago, was present at the meeting on Monday evening, to the delight of all.

Light refreshments were served in the S.S. room, and all went away pleased at being privileged to take part in the diamond jubilee of a congregation that has stood always for simple gospel truth, temperance, moral reform, and the spreading of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

A Brief Historical Sketch.

Following is a summary of the historical sketch of the congregation above referred to:—

In the year 1844-5 deputies from the Free Church of Scotland visited Canada, and amongst other places Cornwall. One of these was the Rev. W. C. Burns, under whose short ministry in St. Peter's Dundee, Scotland, during the absence of their pastor in Palestine, the Rev. Robert Murray McChesney, a memorable revival took place there and who subsequently went to China as a missionary. Mr. Burns spent at least one Sabbath in Cornwall and preached twice that day in a log school house which stood on the corner of Second and Amelia Streets, on the lot where the Public School now stands.

In 1846 the Rev. John Fraser, lately of the Indian Lands, in the Glenora Presbytery, was sent to Cornwall by the Montreal Presbytery and labored here for over two years, having Martin-town as an associate station. Shortly after his arrival a meeting of the people was held on the 30th November, 1846, to complete arrangements for a permanent place of worship. A committee of 19 men was appointed for the purpose aforesaid, viz.:—Messrs. Dr. Johnston, John McKerras, Donald McLeod, Alex. Hunter, James Gillie, A. M. McKenzie, Robert Craig, James Craig, Peter Gillie, John Hunter, William Lockertie, Prince Toby, Mr. Farish, James Clint, Wm. Percy, Peter Forbes, A. E. Caldwell, Donald McTavish and James Smart. A. M. McKenzie was secretary, and John Hunter, treasurer.

In January, 1847, the lot on which the present church stands was purchased for \$5 pounds sterling, being held by a trust consisting of Robert Craig, John Hunter, Austin E. Caldwell, Donald McTavish and Donald McLeod. At the same time a building committee was appointed, consisting of James Smart, Austin E. Caldwell, James Gillie, Prince Toby, Robert Craig and John Hunter.

In the early part of the summer of 1849 the Rev. John Fraser withdrew. It is worthy of note here that the first child that Mr. Fraser baptized, and also the last, are still living and are esteemed members of the congregation, to wit: John Fraser Smart, ex-deputy sheriff, to whom was given most appropriately the name of the officiating minister, and William Smart, his brother. These were the children of James Smart, one of the founders of this congregation, who departed this life many years ago, and of his wife, Helen Munro, who still survives

and is occasionally a worshipper in Knox Church at the present time at the advanced age of 87 years. This venerable lady came to Cornwall in 1839, was one of the first communicants of Knox Church, and was present on that day when the famous Rev. W. C. Burns preached here, heard both discourses and remembers them well.

In October, 1849, Rev. J. Charles Quinn, a licentiate, of the Free Church of Scotland, came from the Kingston Presbytery to Cornwall and labored for four years. His parish included Cornwall and Osabruk, service being held in each place on alternate Sabbaths.

In July, 1851, the foundation of the new church was laid on Second Street, immediately East of the present edifice, which was afterwards enlarged as the then small struggling congregation were able to do so. In August of the same year Robert Atchison and John Hunter were elected to the eldership and duly ordained, this being the first session of the congregation.

In November, 1853, Mr. Quinn resigned his charge after a ministry here of four years.

After a vacancy of twelve months the Rev. Hugh Campbell was secured in November, 1854, and ministered for nearly ten years, when he resigned in the summer of 1846.

He was succeeded the following year—November, 1855—by the Rev. Martin Lowry, who resigned August 28th, 1867, after a ministry of less than two years.

In January, 1868, the Rev. Wm. Harvey Hugh de Burgh came on probation for a short time. In March of the same year he was called to the pastorate and continued therein for nearly three years, withdrawing at the close of 1870.

In the month of May, 1872, the Rev. Robert Binnie was duly called from Lindsay, Ont., and inducted into the pastorate of Knox Church, and labored earnestly for eleven years, until he was removed by death.

He was succeeded by the Rev. James Hastie, who was also called from Lindsay, in November, 1883, and who continued as pastor for eighteen years, the longest incumbency thus far in the history of the congregation, when he resigned the charge and removed to Okotoks, Alberta.

He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Robert Harkness, B.A., Ph.D., who was duly inducted into the pastorate of Knox Church on the evening of April 8th, 1902.

Church Worthies.

Honorable mention is made of the following, some of whom had much to do with the organization and others with the financial support of Knox Church in the days of its weakness:—John Hunter, Nathaniel Tait (father of Mrs. John Copeland), Andrew Elliott, Andrew Hodge, Robert Craig, sr., Wm. Mack, John MacPhee, Robert Anderson, W. Henderson (father of Mrs. Mack), Mrs. James McLeod, Wm. Leitch, Mrs. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Tanner, and Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Bilsland; also a number of individuals and families once in connection with this church, but now connected with Salem Church, Summers-town.

Six of the pastors—Mr. Fraser, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Lowry, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Hugh de Burgh, and Mr. Binnie have departed this life, and are now enjoying their reward. One of these and only one, the saintly Robert Binnie, died while ministering to this people, by whom a tablet to his memory has been placed near the pulpit.

The senior elder now is Hill Campbell, who has been in connection with the congregation since 1857. Of those who have served in the eldership here six have departed this life—John Hunter, Robert Atchison, Joseph Kilgour, John Copeland, Robert Craig, sr.; and William Mack.

Few, very few, remain who witnessed the formation of this congregation 60

years ago. Of those who are still with us may be mentioned: John Ferguson, South Branch; Mrs. James Smart, Water Street, who came to town in 1839 and is still hale and hearty; Mrs. John Copeland, Third Street, who has lived in Cornwall or its vicinity all her life; Mrs. William Mack Second Street, and Mrs. Elliot, Adolphus Street.

During that part of the congregation's history covered by the present pastorate of four years the session has decided to place on record the following details:—

During the period 115 have been added to the communion roll; 34 received the right of baptism, 29 marriages were solemnized, and \$6,476.00 were contributed to the schemes of the church. The death rate in the congregation has been comparatively high for the number of families, numbering one year 10.

In 1885 the present edifice was erected at a cost of nearly \$18,000, to which a gallery was subsequently added, making a total cost of over \$20,000. The church building is now entirely free from debt. About the time of the erection of the new church, the old church and site, and also the old manse property on First Street, were sold, and proceeds used in the new building. A manse, situated on the West side of Sydney Street, between First and Second Sts., was purchased in December, 1904, for the sum of \$4,000.00, on which there remains unpaid \$950.00.

The managing board for 1906 consists of A. E. McLean, chairman; F. Bisset, secretary; Mark Hermiston, financial secretary; J. F. Smart, treasurer; P. E. Campbell, William Pollock, Alex. McNaughton, James Gardner and John B. Atchison.

The Sunday School is managed by 29 teachers and officers: P. E. Campbell, superintendent; William Dingwall, secretary; Miss Bertha Wilson, treasurer; William Comrie, librarian. The School has supported a pupil at Pointe Aux Trembles continuously since the year 1888, contributing each year for this purpose the sum of \$50. The previous superintendents were Robert Craig, sr., Hill Campbell, William Mack and J. P. Watson. The Bible Class has been conducted by Dr. Alguire for 20 years. The choir is under the leadership of Miss Maggie Atchison, successor to J. P. Watson, who efficiently led the singing for a quarter of a century.

There is also a Christian Endeavor Society, which meets every Monday evening, two Mission Bands, an Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in union with St. John's congregation, and two Mite Societies.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The total mileage of the canal in Great Britain and Ireland is 3,856 miles.

The late Rev. Dr. John Smith, Broughton Place U. F. Church, left £5,924 of estate.

Rev. John Wood, of Paisley, has been elected minister of Salford Presbyterian Church, Manchester.

John Alexander Dowie in court declares that on two occasions his soul has left his body temporarily.

The "Autobiography and Memoirs of the late Duke of Argyll" was published by the Dowager Duchess on the 1st inst.

Rev. A. Boyd Scott, of Sherwood U. F. Church, Paisley, has declined the call to the pastorate of Belhaven Church, Glasgow.

Falkirk wants a Carnegie organ for its town hall, and is about to move heaven, earth and Skibo Castle to get the funds.

Ex-Battle Alexander Sinclair, late editor of the Glasgow Herald, and wife, have been celebrating their golden wedding.

The General Assembly has granted the Rev. Joseph Forrest, South U. F. Church, Fraserburgh, £40 from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

Rev. D. S. Cairns, of Ayton U. F. Church, has declined the professorship of Theology and Church History in Ormond College, Melbourne.