

Western Methodist Recorder.

VOL. I.

VICTORIA, B. C. JANUARY, 1900.

No. 7.

✓ REV. S. S. OSTERHOUT, Ph. D.

The series of sketches of our District Chairmen would not be complete without that of the youngest member of the list, Rev. Stanley S. Osterhout.

His history, though brief, has much in it that gives promise of a brilliant future.

In the stirring events which marked the close of the eighteenth century, his grandparents took part, and because of their firm loyalty to the British Crown were imprisoned for the space of a year by the new United States government. In due time they were released and followed the fortunes of the United Empire Loyalists into Canada, where they hewed out a home for themselves from the forest which bordered the shores of the Bay of Quinte.

The family were not only British to the core, but were loyally attached to the Methodist Church, his grandfather having been a local preacher and class leader all his life.

His boyhood home was marked by that warm hospitality which was characteristic of generous, liberal souls, and there the itinerant Methodist preacher always found a hearty welcome.

One's environment has much to do with the development of character, and under the influence of such godly parents and the surroundings of such a Christian home, it is not strange that the subject of our sketch should date his relationship with Christ from the hour of his baptism, which, true to the principles of Methodism, took place the year of his birth, 1868. "Sheltered from the dangers and temptations of the world, and kept safe from ungodly teaching and example," he has been enabled to war a good warfare until the present.

It is distinctly consistent with the teachings of the Church, that our children when presented to God in baptism should be enrolled as "members of Christ's flock," and if the parents are faithful to their vows there is no reason why the children should return to the world. Fit! on the monstrous theory that our children must, of necessity, spend 10, 15, or 20 years, on probation to the devil, scattering seeds of sin, and reaping their fruits, before they can be brought to see their need of Christ and be lead to accept Him as their Saviour. Such at least was not the experience of the one of whom we write.

Early of a studious nature, we find him attending the Collegiate Institute, in the old college town of Cobourg, when only sixteen. Here he qualified as a public school teacher, and taught for four years in Ontario county. Following this he took up matriculation work at Albert College, Belleville, and entered Victoria University in 1890, pursuing the arts' course until the removal of the college to Toronto, two years later.

It was during these years that the wave of missionary interest, inspired by the Students' Volunteer Movement, swept over the colleges, and young Osterhout became one of the consecrated band



REV. S. S. OSTERHOUT, Ph. D.

whose members pledged themselves "as willing and desirous, God permitting, to become foreign missionaries." Entering the ministry shortly afterwards, and seeing in the missionary report the need of a worker at Kishpyox, he volunteered for the Upper Skeena. Owing to the failure in water supply the river boat failed to make her fall trip, and the volunteer was stationed on the Naas.

Here he labored for five years, not without success. The membership was increased one hundred per cent, and many trophies were won from heathenism to Christ.

The necessities of the work led to his being removed from Naas to take charge of the important mission of Port Simpson, the head of the district.

This change was not effected without sincere regret on the part of the missionary and his old friends on the Naas. Since his appointment to Port Simpson he has twice been honored by the brethren with the office of district chairman; a position which he has filled with acceptability. He has always reserved a

fraction of time for study, and in 1894 began the course for Doctor of Philosophy, completing it, with honors, in the spring of 1899.

In 1894 he took as the partner of his joys and toils Miss Amy Humber, only daughter of ex-Ald. Humber of Victoria, B. C., a most estimable and talented lady, who for eight years prior to her marriage was organist in the Centennial Methodist Church, Victoria. She has been a constant and zealous assistant of her husband in every good word and work, her musical talents having been greatly appreciated by the people among whom they have labored.

Bro. Osterhout is the representative of the Brampton District Epworth League in the mission field.

He has a strong personality, a magnificent physique, a deep and orotund voice. He is an eloquent speaker, and in him the Church has a well qualified and successful missionary, and the natives a firm friend and defender.

W. H. B.