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Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D. - Editor.

TORONTO, JUNE 21, 1884.

Toronto Semi-Centennial.

THE city of Toronto is about to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation as a city. We therefore devote this number of HOME AND SCHOOL specially to taking part in that celebration. We have asked our dear old friend, the Rev. Dr. Carroll, an "Old Toronto Boy," who, despite his seventy years and more, still keeps the boy's heart and the boy's sympathy with boys fresh within him, to recount some of his early experiences, associated with the history of our city, when known as "Muddy York." We wish all boys could read his "Story of My Boy Life." It gives a word picture of the hardships and struggles of boys in Canada over half a century ago. It should be in all our Sunday-school libraries. We give with this number pictures of Toronto as it is, showing the busy scene along the water front; the elevators, wharves, shipping. The good city stretches away two miles from the water and about four or five miles from east to west. It has now over 100,000 inhabitants, including the suburbs recently annexed.

We give also a picture of the old Adelaide street church, dear to the hearts of thousands. Here the Editor of this paper attended Sunday-school

in his childhood and made his first public appearance on a Sunday-school festival platform in his sixth year; we remember it as if it were yesterday. We give also a picture of the church, which may be said to be the offspring of "old Adelaide street," the beautiful Metropolitan church.

Consummation of Methodist Union.

OUR able *confreere*, the Halifax *Wesleyan*, writes thus of Methodist Union.

"That no such wonderful ecclesiastical movement has ever taken place in Canada is admitted by men of all classes. From all disinterested quarters have come expressions of satisfaction that a reconciliation of so many past differences and jarring interests should have been so speedily effected. The movement has produced an impression throughout the Dominion, and far beyond it, most favourable to Christianity. Romanism and infidelity have been robbed of one long-used sling at the Gospel and Protestantism. The lesson of Christian unselfishness has been the more valuable, because even the members of the minority which at first opposed the movement have, with few, if any exceptions, thrown themselves heartily into line with its promoters to make the union one in spirit as well as in name. 'It was a great triumph of Christian principle,' says a leading secular paper, 'that men who cherished strong personal sympathies, and preferences, and prejudices, should overcome them all for the greater common good.' Only men ready to lay all personal prejudices and preferences at the Master's feet could so have acted. The prayer and the example of the Rev. John A. Williams, D.D., on the morning of the meeting of the United General Conference at Belleville, will ever be remembered by all present with a thrill of holy emotion; and the scene at the close of the Conference will always be regarded as a foretaste of the results to follow. United thanksgiving services and combined efforts to save men have already harmonized many local churches whose conduct some months ago seemed a clever imitation of that of the Jews and the Samaritans. 'The union spirit,' says our Canadian Methodist Episcopal contemporary, 'has already revived old-fashioned Methodist usages with a power and success truly wonderful.'

'It is wonderful,' says the same paper, 'how readily men can adapt themselves to their surroundings. Union is now an accomplished fact, and everything seems to be adjusting itself with perfect unanimity to the situation.'

"There will, no doubt, be some friction in the adjustment of positions and the development of plans, and we must take care as we leap to the crest of the hill that no self-sufficiency shall mark a movement in the earlier stages of which we have said and sung, 'The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.' But Israel's most triumphant strains, her songs of holy confidence, should be the order of the day. Will not some of those who have desired to see it in the flesh, but who died without the sight, visit our churches? Will not the ministering hosts of the upper sanctuary raise a higher note in honour of their King? Shall not the Redeemer see in part the answer of His prayer, 'that they all may be one,' and be satisfied? As a section of the sacramental host let us go forth with the shout:

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity."

IN view of the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Jeffers from the active work, the members of the Holloway Street Church, Belleville, of which he has been pastor during the past year, passed a very kind and appreciative resolution at their last meeting. The resolution expressed deep regret that, owing to his retirement, the Church would be deprived of listening to the Doctor's instructive and powerful sermons; high appreciation of his very instructive and successful labours—labours accompanied by the energy of the Holy Spirit in quickening believers and converting souls; and earnest prayers that "his life, which for nearly half a century has been such an invaluable blessing to the Church of his choice, as one of its ablest defenders of gospel truth, and most powerful pulpit exponents, may long be spared, that the richest benedictions of God's grace may rest upon him in his declining years; and that the closing of his earthly work may be to him but the beginning of Heaven's unclouded noon."—*Guardian*.

Book Notices.

Tip Lewis and his Lamp. By Pansy. Price 25 cents. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. This story was one of the first from Pansy's prolific pen, and so bright was it, so pure, and so healthy in tone, that it sprang at once into popularity, and since that time it has been in steady demand. It was an excellent idea on the part of the publishers to begin their new series of cheap editions of good books with one which is already so widely and favourably known. By this reduction in the price it will find a multitude of new readers, and particularly among those who need its teachings most.

An Hour with Miss Streator. By Pansy. Price, post paid, 6 cents. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. With a beautiful emblematic frontispiece. Few books embody in equal space so many useful lessons, so wisely and entertainingly presented, as "An Hour with Miss Streator." Every primary class teacher will find this last book of Pansy's full of hints and helps for faithful workers.

"Our Own Church Series." Nine Tracts. By J. H. Vincent, D.D. Bound in neat, heavy paper cover, two colours. 16mo. Each 5 cents. Toronto: William Briggs. Subjects: 1. The Holy Catholic Church; 2. The Antiquity of Methodism; 3. That "Episcopal" Church; 4. The Church and the World; 5. Broad and Narrow; 6. The Classmates' Meeting; 7. Our Settled Itinerancy; 8. Earnest Christians; 9. True Church Loyalty. We heartily endorse the following opinion of these tracts given by the *New York Christian Advocate*:—We are more than pleased with the charming tracts on "Our Own Church," by Dr. John H. Vincent. Nine in number, they cover the spirit, the polity, the needs, of our Church life in a masterly way. They are beautiful as little books, and are admirably fitted to put into the hands of probationers, or those who may wish to know why we are what we are. We have long known that our doctrines and discipline command respect wherever they are intelligently and candidly studied. Prejudice survives, even where our place and influence are secure. Dr. Vincent has done the Church good service in this his latest work, as he has in many other fields of usefulness.