

foundland were formed into a district. About the year 1855 we find eleven Methodist ministers in the colony; to-day they number about seventy.

It is a noteworthy fact, as indicating the missionary spirit characteristic of Newfoundland Methodism, that, in 1816, the first colonial missionary contribution was made by Newfoundlanders to the English Methodist Missionary Society. The amount was \$155.

From its very beginning Methodism in Newfoundland has been carried forward by a band of missionaries—mostly English—in the face of great and constant difficulties. For long years the forces of bigotry and irreligion had to be met and overcome; this is to-day happily a thing of the past. Then the scattered nature of the settlements, the absence of roads in many places, the migratory life led by many of the fishermen and their families, and the frequent failures of the staple industry, have been difficulties which have tried the mettle, and called forth the heroism of a noble band of men who, ever in "labors abundant," were in the true "apostolic succession."

To-day the life of the Newfoundland missionary is far from being a life of ease or self-enjoyment, and withal there is connected with it very little of the glamor and romance of much foreign missionary work. (The present unfortunate financial condition of the colony adds to the burden of the missionary.)

In 1892 an awful fire almost destroyed the capital, St. John's. In seven hours eleven thousand people were rendered homeless, and \$16,000,00 worth of property was destroyed.

Two years later, in December, 1894, came the failure of the only chartered banks in the country; the failure of these banks was directly caused by the suspension of the greater portion of the business firms, and these in turn had been brought to such a condition by the repeated failure of the cod-fisheries, coupled with the low prices of fish in the foreign markets.

To a very great extent the "truck" or "credit" system was indirectly responsible for the bankruptcy of so many commercial houses. The average Newfoundland fisherman, for decades past, has relied on the supplying merchant to advance him on credit, in the spring, the provisions, clothing, nets, salt, etc., necessary for the carrying on of the "fishing voyage" during the summer. For these goods the fisherman promises to pay in fish at the end of the year. If the "voyage" be a good one, all goes well, but if not—as often is the case—the fisherman, when the time comes to settle his account, has absolutely nothing to pay, and has, moreover, nothing wherewith to purchase the necessaries of life for himself and family during the long approaching winter. What is to be done? The merchant does not wish to see the man and his family in want, and so he provides him with the means of subsistence, hoping the following year will be a more prosperous one, and that then the fisherman will be able to pay for the two seasons. This being repeated on a very large scale for a number of years, it can readily be seen that strong indeed must be the commercial fabric which remains intact. Of course out of this system grew dishonesty on the part of the merchant and fisherman. On the one hand the merchant charged exorbitant prices for goods sold. The fisherman knowing this, and being engaged in fishing hundreds of miles from the merchants, sold part of their fish to traders, pocketed the money, and, proceeding to their homes, represented to their merchants that the catch of fish was smaller than it really was. Far-reaching indeed

were the immoral influence of such practices, and in many respects it was a good day when, in 1894, the commercial crisis almost obliterated such an iniquitous system.

To-day religion in Newfoundland, we believe, is in a transition period. Men are more than ever being thrown on their own resources. The chances for dishonesty and trickery remaining undetected are growing less. Temptations most difficult to resist, present themselves no longer. Now, more than ever, is the time for aggressive, enthusiastic work. The "seed of the kingdom" has been faithfully scattered in past years, and has already borne much fruit. The work of instruction is being faithfully performed, and the outlook for the future is full of promise.

To-day, from the harbors and coves of rockbound Terra Nova, thousands of hearts are lifted to high heaven in true, believing prayer, while the regenerated, yea saintly, lives of many a brawny, untutored Newfoundland fisherman is a standing evidence to all that "the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

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### To Our Co-Workers.

We have a few thousand short missionary stories any one of which we would be glad to publish in the CAMPAIGNER but cannot for lack of space.

Anyone sending us 25c. will receive twelve of these stories, which sell for 10c.; Dr. Ross' "First One Hundred Years of Modern Missions," 10c.; the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER, 10c., and a "Cycle of Prayer," 3c.

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### To Our Subscribers.

We will send Dr. Ross' "First Hundred Years of Modern Missions" to any address for 10 cents.

To our subscribers who are renewing their subscriptions we will send the MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER for one year and "First Hundred Years of Missions" for 20 cents.

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*Junior Epworth League Hand-Book.* By REV. S. T. BARTLETT. Price, 35c. Toronto: Methodist Book Room.

If you have not a Junior League but have girls and boys in your church, you need a copy of the "Junior League Hand-Book" to help you in organizing a League.

If you have a Junior League you cannot afford to be without one of the most practical and helpful aids for young people's work. You can learn many things from its pages, which have been written out of a wide experience. It will explain the Junior League work, its constitution, and how to organize the children for work. The chapters on the qualities for a successful superintendent, the requisites for successful work, how to arrange an attractive Junior meeting, and how to get and keep the boys, are full of possibilities for the consecrated Junior superintendent.

Blackboard and object teaching and committee work, the consecration meeting and Bible study, the relation of the Juniors to the pastor and the Senior League, are helpfully explained; while from the chapters of difficulties and danger and the work done by the Juniors, clear away many difficulties and encourages work among the children.

The Junior League Hymns should be sung by all Juniors. Put a copy of the "Hand-Book" in your library.