

plot; he was accused to the Society in England, but even that was to no purpose. Meanwhile, he went quietly and courageously on with his work. "I am and do confess myself a Methodist," he wrote to Mr. Wesley. "The name I love, and I hope I ever shall. The plan which you first taught me, I have followed as to doctrine and discipline. Our married men meet apart once a week, and the married women the same. This has given great offence, so that repeated complaints have been made to the Governor. But truth is mighty and will prevail.

"In winter I go from house to house, and expound some part of God's word. This has also given great offence; but God is above men, devils and sin. The Society, I make no doubt, have many complaints against me; but in this I shall commit all to God, for I am conscious to myself that I do all for the glory of God and the good of souls. We have the sacrament once a month, and have about two hundred communicants." Undeterred by privations, undismayed by persecution and obloquy, a lonely, heroic figure, he was at first almost baffled and heart broken by the obduracy of his hearers, but finally he was rewarded by a revival which melted their hard hearts, as the iceberg melts in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. "Hours that had been wasted in Sabbath-breaking, drinking, gaming, and other prevalent vices, were now spent in praise, prayer, and the reading of the Scriptures."

✓ Fifty years elapsed between Coughlan's coming to Hr. Grace and the appointment of the first Methodist minister to St. John's. That seems strange, does it not? But to one conversant at all with the conditions of those times and with the history of the first development of Methodism in the island, it is quite easily explicable. Indeed, it was not till twenty years after Coughlan's coming that Newfoundland appears on the Minutes of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Britain as one of the stations of its ministers. That first stationed minister was John McGeary. Meanwhile the work had been carried on by the zeal of lay preachers; and there is no more heroic story of faithfulness and devotion than that which is linked with the names of Hoskins in Trinity Bay, and Thomey and Stretton in Harbor Grace and the north shore and

central settlements of Conception Bay. All honor to those two Newfoundland merchants, John Stretton and Arthur Thomey, busy men as Newfoundland merchants always have to be, and yet devoting their time and energy, in their spare hours and beyond them, to the work of evangelizing the sparse settlements of Conception and Trinity Bays. The time would fail me to tell of John McGeary, and John Remington, and William Ellis and Samuel McDowell, and George Smith, and William Thoresby, and Sampson Busby, and others of the pioneer ministers equally valiant and faithful, "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." The history of those fifty years is but sparingly chronicled, but their record is written deep and indelible in the developments that have succeeded them.

✓ We come now to 1815, when St. John's first appears on the Minutes as fifth in order among the stations of the Newfoundland District, then first formed. Two years before, in 1813, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society had been organized in England, and it is probable that stimulus was given to work in Newfoundland by the establishment of that Society, destined to have so vast a share in the evangelization of the world. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the West Indies were then its only mission fields.

St. John's itself was the first settled town in all His Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas. That is its place in history. There are many larger cities, many better built cities, far and away, throughout the British Empire, but few more picturesque for situation, and none more romantic in history. Truly, the man born in St. John's may boast that he is a citizen of no mean city, having regard to all its long and varied and important history. As we sit in this building, we are but a stone's throw from the spot where Sir Humphrey Gilbert in the days of good Queen Bess, set up his tent on what we know as Garrison Hill, and summoning all the inhabitants, and the masters and crews of the ships in the harbor, "as well Englishmen as Spaniards, Portugals and all other nations," read to them his commission under the