

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

The following is the historical address delivered by the pastor, Rev. F. A. Currier, M. A., August 28th, the seventieth anniversary of the Woodstock Free Baptist Church:

In some ways our meeting here to-day is unique among anniversary services. There are very few churches in this province that have celebrated their tenth septemata. There are two older Free Baptist churches in the province, those at Upper and Lower Brighton both having been organized four years earlier.

On the 21st August, 1834, a number of persons met in a barn owned by Mr. Johnston at the Lower Corner, and on the following day a meeting was held in the carpenter shop of Mr. Fairfield, and at this meeting the church organization was effected. The sermon was preached by Rev. Jonathan Hamilton from Ephesians 2: 4. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he hath loved us, even when we were dead in sin, hath quickened us together in Christ."

After the sermon a number of the Christian brothers and sisters present expressed their desire that a church might be organized and their willingness to unite with such an organization.

At that meeting this church was organized, with a total membership of ten. The one thing that makes this anniversary service unique is the fact that we have with us to-day one of those ten charter members. Upon the marble tablet to my left are the names of those ten persons who seventy years ago met in that carpenter shop and prayed for the blessing of God upon the weak and infant organization of the Woodstock Free Baptist church. Hallowed names. I never read that list but what there comes over me a feeling of reverence and gratitude. Reverence for those great and noble spirits that, amid difficulties and discouragements that we know not of, struggled against weakness and persecution and hardships, that they might win for their children and their children's children a place in which to meet and "freedom to worship God;" gratitude that God has given us such noble men and women, who, by their heroic, consecrated, devoted lives, built up such a strong and permanent organization for the encouragement of those who should come after.

There is one thing for which we are especially grateful to God, and that is that he had in his great wisdom and mercy spared to us one of those ten charter members, and to-day we have listened to his voice as he has gone back over those seventy years and told us of some of the early struggles of their church. We thank God for his long and illustrious life, and life consecrated to that grandest and most honored of all callings, the preaching of the gospel of the Son of Man. Most faithfully and most lovingly has he through many years told the sweet story of "redeeming grace," and proven the promise of his Heavenly Father, that if a man will serve his God that his days will be long upon the earth. We younger men feel the need of the counsel of these older brethren in the ministry, and as one after another they fall out of the ranks there comes over us a sense of loneliness and renewed responsibility, and we can only pray that these younger shoulders may bear the burdens as steadily and as faithfully as the older ones have done. Then, to-day, we all find a prayer constantly rising to our lips and longing for expression, "Oh, God, may it be according to Thy will to spare our Brother-Noble to us for a few years more, for we need his counsel and his benediction."

This church, like all churches, has had its struggles and its hard places.

In the year 1881 the people, with much self-sacrifice, had repaired and re-modelled their church until it was almost a new building. They were not, however,

privileged to enjoy the fruits of their self-sacrifice long, for the work had scarcely been finished when in a few hours it was no more. On the morning of the 11th of November the beautiful church was burned with fire, with most of its contents. It was a sad loss to the people. Nothing daunted, the little band of Christians set to work to re-build, and so rapidly was the work carried on that in less than a year the vestry was completed and the regular church services held there. The work on the main part of the building was steadily carried on as monies could be raised. I find this record in the secretary's book:

WOODSTOCK, N. B.
August 2nd, 1885.

On this second day of August the new Free Baptist church was publicly dedicated to the worship of God. In the morning at ten there was a prayer and praise meeting in the vestry, and at eleven o'clock preaching by Rev. Alexander Taylor; at three o'clock by Rev. Joseph McLeod; and at seven, by Rev. Joseph Noble. Collection, \$30.00.

In 1888 came another time of hard struggle. Although different from the loss of seven years before, it was not the less hard to bear. A great many of the members of the church felt that they no longer held to doctrines of the denomination in reference to the matter of sanctification, and felt it to be their duty to withdraw from her membership. At one business meeting of the church, held on May 30th, letters of dismissal were granted to fifty-two members. It was a time of great trial and discouragement, but God, in his great mercy and kindness, brought us out of great tribulation and set our feet in a sure place.

Looking back on that movement from the safe distance of fifteen years, one cannot but regret that greater charity and leniency had not been exercised on both sides of the question. If there had been, the results might have been different. At the present time, when we have had so many years to dispassionately consider our doctrinal differences, we find they are not very great, and one can only pray that the time is not far distant when, as prejudice and enmity disappear, these differences will become so small, that they can be eliminated altogether, and not only these two bodies, but all those who bear the honored name of Baptists, be as our Lord wished us ever to be, one in spirit and one in name.

If this church has had her hard places, she has also had her joys. She has the enviable distinction of being a peaceable church. Not only among the church of the town, but in the denomination, she is known as the church that never has any troubles. If there is anything that a church should be grateful for, it is for that fact. Personally, as pastor of this church, I wish to express my gratification. Never has it been my privilege to minister to a people who manifested so much charity and Christian affection, the one for the other. The sweet spirit of peace and quietness and harmony that has ever prevailed in this church must have been as great a source of gratitude and comfort to the former pastors as it is to myself. The spirit of God cannot work where there is discord and hard feelings among the people. The world that stands outside the church, but whose eye is ever on the church, is only too glad to see that Christians cannot agree any better inside a church than sinners can outside. But when harmony and peace prevail continually within her walls, sinners without feel that God dwells within.

This church has ever kept in sight that the chief aim and purpose of a Christian organization is the conversion of sinners. That in the first our Lord gave his commission to the apostles to go into all the world and teach all nations, and baptize them, and that his commission to the church to-day is the

HOUSE FURNISHINGS

Carpets, Carpets,
Oil Cloths, Linoleums, Rugs
Mattings, Art Squares.

We are showing an immense stock of the above in the designs and colorings.

Lace Curtains, Curtain Muslins, etc,
a big display.

Tennant, Davies & Clarke

same. The fact that this church started with a membership of ten, and to-day has a membership of 473, proves that it is a church that believes in the conversion of sinners.

Many of you love this church, and many of you have abundant reasons for doing so, for it was within her walls that you heard the voice of God calling the prodigal home. It is your desire that this church shall stand for those principles in which she was founded. It is mine also. I believe in her mission; I believe in her opportunities. I believe she has done a great work in Woodstock, and I believe that she is destined to do still greater things. We are all desirous that she shall live, but she shall not, and I have no desire that she shall live unless it can live to the quickening of public virtue and the salvation of men. Unless we use all her powers, her humanities, her culture, her piety, for the furtherance of God's kingdom in this town, and connect it with her wants as a reservoir is connected with the needs for water in the homes, unless the poor and the needy, and the destitute and the neglected and the sinful find in her a refuge from temptation, and a helper in time of need, she will not stand, and she ought not to stand. Our Lord does not need ornamental churches, nor famous churches, nor historical churches, with their grand traditions and stately decorum and sluggish, stagnant, respectability, so much as he needs churches full of the Holy Ghost and warm with the fires of a divine zeal. He needs churches full of holy energies and benevolent activities, and warm sympathies with men who struggle hourly against sin and temptation and despair.

The church that does the least has the least right to exist, and the church that does the most in Christian benevolences and charity has the best.

To God the Father and his adorable Son, Jesus the Christ, our Redeemer and Saviour, and to the Holy Ghost, be power and glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

NOTICE.

Any ordained Free Baptist minister who has not received his Ordination Certificate, is requested to notify the undersigned at once.

Dated at Woodstock, N. B., this 2nd day of Sept., A. D., 1904.

D. McLEOD VINCE.

EDITORIAL OUTLOOK.

Continued from page 1.

both Russians and Japanese. The main force of the Japanese had retired to Yentai, on the main road, about ten miles northeast of Liao Yang. There was no fighting Saturday except small patrol encounters.

A despatch received in London from St. Petersburg gives a report that Viscount Alexieff has resigned.

The Baltic fleet sailed from Cronstadt on Sunday, and it is officially announced in St. Petersburg that its destination is the far east.

St. Petersburg despatches indicate preparations to increasing the Russian fighting force.

The story from Port Arthur is one of bombardments.

BRIEF MENTION.

A unique marriage ceremony took place in a Montreal church a few days ago, when a mother and her two daughters were married at the same service. The mother is 47 years of age, and has been a widow for a few years, while the two daughters were aged 21 and 19 respectively. The three composed the entire household.

The term of the Fredericton Normal school was formally opened last Wednesday. There are 216 students enrolled.

Russia is not likely to seize any more British ships or cargoes. Britain's note on the subject was to the effect that a repetition would not be tolerated.

Every Mother

is called upon to cure
Cuts—Sprains—Bruises.

Painkiller

does it rapidly. Nothing better for children. A few drops in hot sweetened water cures

Cramps—Colic—and
Summer Comp

There's only one Painkiller. PERRY