

REV. ROBT. WILSON, PH. D.

EX-PRESIDENT OF THE N. B. AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE.

A Brief Sketch of a Busy Life Spent in Religious Work in New Brunswick—Preacher, Author and Orator—The Stations He Has Preached In.

On Wednesday morning the Methodist conference of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island opened at Moncton and the first and presiding officer of that large, influential and energetic Christian body was the subject of this sketch, Rev. Robert Wilson, Ph. D., pastor of Exmouth street church. But few men can boast with Dr. Wilson of having been thus honored by their brethren in the ministry and laity, and none can say he merited it more or filled the president's chair with greater credit to himself or the conference.

St. John is not permitted to claim Dr. Wilson as a native. He is an old-countryman, and in Fort George, Scotland, first saw the light. Anyone who is at all acquainted with the reverend gentleman will not be surprised to learn that his father was a soldier, and a Highlander at that, a man who spent the best years of his life fighting his country's battles and his declining days in the service of God.



REV. ROBERT WILSON, PH. D.

Robert was in his fifth year when his father came to Canada with his regiment, which helped to suppress the rebellion of 1837-38. Three years later, having obtained his discharge, he settled in Prince Edward Island and became a local preacher of the Methodist church. It was then in "the tight little island" that Robert's real Canadian life began. The best educational training that the province afforded was his and he took such advantage of his opportunities that when he discontinued his regular studies he was fitted for and for a time followed the vocation of a teacher.

At the age of 20, in 1853, Mr. Wilson entered the Methodist ministry and since that date he has preached and worked in eleven different stations, including West Cape (P. E. Island), Fairville, Kingston (King's), Hopewell, St. Andrews, Shedfield, Marysville, Gibson, Baie Verte, Salisbury and Exmouth Street church (St. John). He has been chairman of the St. John and Sackville districts, has occupied the position of conference secretary for five years, was first delegate to the general conference in Toronto in 1886 and for the past year was president of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island conference.

Dr. Wilson is one of the ablest of the foremost preachers in his denomination. Every audience he has preached to has heard from him nothing but plain, vigorous gospel directed with forceful eloquence. In a recent conversation he said to the writer, "I generally write a sermon a week, out in full, but never take notes of it into the pulpit. For fourteen years I have preached without notes and during the whole period of my ministry, some 25 years, I have upon four occasions read my sermons. Preaching is a delight to me; reading would be a drudgery. I think in the latter case what is gained in finish is lost in force. I like to preach a series of discourses and indeed have done so frequently. I try to get variety into my sermons and above all give the people an all-around gospel. Do I favor the retention of the itinerancy? Yes, but I would extend the pastoral term. I am a Methodist of the British, rather than of the American, school."

As a preacher, Dr. Wilson is very popular. His success in every station he has worked in, proves also that he has energy and, what is equally essential, method. In Hopewell, he was, after a few years, recalled by the people, and their neighbors in Salisbury took advantage of the expiration of his three years term to obtain his services. The same was true of Gibson, when Mr. Wilson left Marysville, and there is another illustration of this in the call lately extended to him by Queen square Methodist church.

The best work of his life has of course been in his profession, yet he is well known in the temperance division rooms, and has filled high offices in the gift of the order.

Unlike the majority of his profession, Mr. Wilson's political views are decided,

and he does not hesitate to give them expression. He is a Conservative, has written and spoken in defence of Conservative principles, and held office under a Conservative government. In former years, when stationed near Fredericton, he contributed for some time the editorials in the *Fredericton Reporter*, and later, when in Albert county, he wrote for the *Maple Leaf* and *Albert County Advocate*. Very early in his career he took a decided political stand, and with tongue and pen advocated the confederation of the provinces. He gained considerable recognition as a platform orator, and his political pamphlet was of such merit that it was republished in the United States.

A few years later, his health becoming impaired, his political services were recognized by his appointment as Canadian immigration agent in Great Britain. In this connection, the following paragraph appeared in an English paper:

The Rev. Robert Wilson, for 25 years an accredited minister of the Methodist church of Canada, is now on a visit to his native land, and intends remaining some time. As a preacher and lecturer he is highly spoken of by the Canadian press, and his services in the pulpit and on the platform may be utilized during his stay. He is also an authorized agent of the gov-

ernment of Canada in the interests of emigration, and will deliver addresses on and give such information concerning Canada as will be useful to those seeking homes in the great Dominion.

On his return to Canada, Dr. Wilson lectured in many places upon his trip and old country life and habits. Since that time he has been an enthusiastic admirer and advocate of what some people term "The Annexation Antidote," Imperial Federation. It is said that he was the first to present the idea publicly to a maritime audience. Crediting Dr. Wilson with thoroughly sound views on many public questions, the writer would like, in justice to him, to say that his advocacy of and love for imperial federation were born of intense loyalty to the mother country, rather than from any idea of benefit that Canada would derive from such a one-sided union. But he has no warrant to make the statement.

As an author and an orator, Dr. Wilson ranks first among his people. Two works of his, *Tried but True* and *Never Give Up*, were given favorable and liberal criticism by the provincial press. His pamphlets have already been alluded to.

Perhaps the public, outside of his congregations, know the subject of this sketch better as a lecturer than in any other capacity. Certain it is that he has afforded the people some rich descriptive and intellectual treats. No gentleman is readier to respond to the call of a lecture committee and few draw better audiences.

Dr. Wilson is as popular socially as he is successful professionally. He has been married 32 years and has five daughters and one son. A short time ago, after close and arduous study, he received the degree of Ph. D. from a Chicago university. According to conference rule he must leave Exmouth street this summer, but Queen square can be congratulated upon having secured his services, and St. John is fortunate in retaining so patriotic a man and such a forcible and favorite preacher.

Sports of all kinds at St. Andrew's Picnic.

The Orangemen's Picnic.

The 12th of July will be a greater day than usual this year; not only because it marks an important anniversary, but because the Orangemen of the city and county are making special efforts for the success of their annual excursion. Watters' grounds—and there are none more beautiful on the river—will be the destination of the excursionists and the Union line steamers will carry them thither. The Artillery band will supply music, a dozen different games, in which prizes are offered, will furnish sport and addresses by eloquent speakers will convey welcome instruction to the crowds that will go. The advertisement published elsewhere tells all about it.

Sewing machines of all kinds repaired by experienced mechanics, at Bell's, 25 King street.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

(CONTINUED FROM FIFTH PAGE.)

MONCTON SOCIETY.

MONCTON, June 27.—Now, this week, PROGRESS, I fear my letter will be rather uninteresting. There is really no news; but the old saying, "No news is good news," may come in here, for the contents of this epistle will be of the goodly nature, falling in with the times, so to speak; for, as you are perhaps aware, the town is flooded with Methodist divines, and so we will all be on our best behavior for a few days. The conference opened this morning. The most vivid impression I brought from the meeting was that they were a wonderfully good-looking body of men, and talked remarkably well. But I don't think, PROGRESS, that they are half so jolly-looking as a party of divines I had the pleasure of meeting last week. I refer to the clergymen of the Roman Catholic church, a number of whom I met at the closing exercises of Memramcook college, Thursday. I wish you had been there, the evening was so pleasant. I suppose I need not dwell on it, for the dailies have given the entire proceedings, though, now I think of it, one of the best things of the evening has not yet been in print. It was an unconscious bull made by our worthy friend, Hon. D. L. Hanington, of Dorchester. He informed his audience, in the course of his remarks, that he "had now entered on his second century"—in reference to which Rev. Roy Campbell, who followed with a humorous speech that sent us all home in a happy frame of mind, gave the boys a mathematical problem: If Mr. Hanington be so lively and hale in the first year of his second century, what will he be in the fiftieth? At this the reverend gentleman shook with suppressed merriment, and the audience fairly roared.

On Monday evening, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hogg's many friends assembled at both the church and manse, to wish them good-bye and God-speed. A well-written address, expressive of regret at parting, was read, and this was accompanied with a well-filled purse, the congregation wishing to show, by tangible proof, that their regret was sincere. They left on Tuesday morning's express, followed by the hearty good-byes (or, as Mr. Hewson translates it, good be with you in the by-and-by), of all who had the pleasure of knowing them. There is talk of extending a call to Rev. Mr. Pitblado, late of St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg (now Mr. Hogg's charge).

Now, PROGRESS, suppose we make a change from matters celestial to matters terrestrial.

Miss Weldon gave a charming "small and early," last Thursday evening; just our young people. The affair was most pleasant.

Mrs. H. T. Stevens gives an "at home" on Friday. The invitations are numerous, and no doubt the evening will be one of the events of the season. I'll tell you what all the new dresses looked like when I send the next letter. *Appropos*, do you know, PROGRESS, people say they believe I have some lady assisting me with these letters; for they don't think it possible a man could describe dresses so well. Now, in confidence, I ask, Have I, PROGRESS?

Mr. Hockin's numerous friends will regret to hear of his removal to the Dorchester agency of the Merchants' bank. During his stay in Moncton, Mr. H. has become deservedly popular. Is it not too bad that the management removes them just as we begin to think them almost indispensable? Mr. Dalzell takes his place here.

Mrs. Teed, of Dorchester, was in town a few days last week.

Mr. Hudson is back again I notice, looking wonderfully well. Beyond a shadow of doubt, he had good care taken of him during that visit. "Tis sweet to be with those we love."

Dr. Henry Chandler is in town this week, taking Dr. Baxter's patients in charge. Dr. Baxter has joined a fishing party that went north Monday. There is one thing about going quite a distance from home; if one can't catch with a steel hook, there is a better chance to use a silver one.

"Jack" has returned from Fredericton; he went up for the encenia, I believe. No doubt he had a good time, visiting the scenes of his youth and fondly trying to imagine himself a boy again.

Every one is going out of town for the 1st and 2d.

Mr. Wallace goes to Halifax, where his young lady friends are getting up an ovation for him.

Mr. Hugh Hamilton is going on to Yarmouth for a few days. By-the-by, I wonder when he returns if we will hear fuller particulars about Ally's visit to that town. Ally has been painfully reticent on the subject since he came back home.

Dr. and Mrs. Borque join the party that goes to "the Beaches;" the doctor is an old-time favorite in Richibucto. His friends will doubtless give him a cordial welcome, for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne."

Among others who will spend the holidays at "the Beaches" are two young gentlemen whom I have not before introduced to PROGRESS. I refer to Messrs. Cowling and Givan. They drove over on Saturday, I believe. "Will and Fred" are two of our Moncton boys, so I naturally take pride in telling you something about them. *Entre nous*, I think this time "Will"

is really serious, and if matters go on as they have started, I will likely have something of an extremely interesting nature to tell you about soon. I could tell something of that kind about "Fred" now, but you couldn't keep a secret.

Mr. Campbell (Bank of Montreal) is boarding over in Shediac this summer. So now, except during business hours, he is "lost to sight though to memory dear." That's what the girls say.

As I write this morning, PROGRESS, borne on the wind comes the sound of music. It is the Cornet band, out to do honor to our lately imprisoned hero, whose prison thoughts are, I trust, a thing of the past. The king has come to his own again. *Vive le roi*.

In this morning's *Sun*, under the heading of "heart harvest" I read that our old friend F. M. Cotton, has taken upon his shoulders the yoke of matrimony. I join with his Moncton friends in showers of congratulations and feel sure from what I know of the fair bride he will never find the burden weary.

Mr. W. C. Burnyeat goes to Halifax to spend the 1st with his sister, Mrs. Rigby. Our eyes were gladdened this week by a glimpse of the Dorchester Adonis, walking down Main street irresistible as of yore.

LYNN.

WOODSTOCK WHISPERS.

WOODSTOCK, June 28.—Joyous wedding bells again! This time the scene was St. Luke's Episcopal church; time, Tuesday, 7 a. m. The participants were Mr. Charles Bull of our town and Miss Helen, daughter of Rev. James Neales and sister of reverends William, Thomas, Henry and Scovil Neales. Though the hour was an early one, yet the large and beautiful church was well filled by the *elite* of our community, the young and the fair predominating. The bride was attired in a navy blue travelling suit. She had for her maids Miss Maggie Bull, niece of the groom and little Miss Bessie, daughter of Rev. Canon Neales. Mr. A. K. Neales acted as groomsmen. The impressive ceremony was performed by Rev. James Neales, who was assisted by Rev. Canon Neales. After the service, the wedded pair, accompanied by a large number of their friends, drove to the station where they took the south bound express for a tour through the eastern states.

Mr. Wm. Haliburton, agent of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has returned from his vacation trip and resumed his duties.

Mr. R. C. Clinch, of the Western Union Telegraph company, is in town.

Rev. William Neales, of San Francisco, brother of Rev. Canon Neales, accompanied by his wife, is visiting friends here.

Misses Du Vernet and McLaren, of St. John, are paying Woodstock friends a short visit.

THE NEWS OF SHEDIAK.

SHEDIAK, June 26.—The summer visitors have begun to arrive, and mine host Weldon wears a more good-natured smile than usual, at the thoughts of a good season's patronage. The appearance of the hotel has been greatly improved by a very pretty spruce hedge running along the front side, and by the planting of some additional elms.

Main street, which has looked rather dilapidated since the fire, will be greatly improved by the addition of two fine brick buildings, to be owned by Madame Gallant and Mr. Fidele Poirier.

Mrs. T. Hicks is at home from a visit to friends in Fredericton.

Mrs. A. Shaw, of Moncton, was over last week for a few days visiting her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Harper, at Sunny Brae.

Mrs. A. D. McCully, wife of Rev. A. D. McCully, who has been ill for some time, is improving daily in health.

Mr. Fred. H. Smyth returned from Halifax a few days ago quite ill, but I am happy to see that he is getting strong again.

Quite a number of picnics are expected to be held here this summer.

I am very sorry that I cannot tell you of any weddings just now, but you can keep on the look out for very likely before fall there will be one, yes, perhaps, two. We will be very sorry to lose our fair daughters but I am sure they will be well taken care of, if constant medical attendance is conducive to health.

OPHELIA.

"Athlete" Cigarettes, 10c. package. Equal to any imported at 20 cents. Smoke "Athlete" Cigarettes. Try "Athlete" Cigarettes.

The Gospel of Secularism.

Mr. Charles Watts, of Toronto, whose radical addresses in Dockrill's hall, some months ago, attracted a good deal of attention, is again to visit St. John. He will lecture to-morrow afternoon and evening in Good Templar's hall, presenting the various phases of Secularist belief. It is understood that he invites discussion with the clergy and other defenders of Christianity.

The "Mungo" Cigar.

Mr. A. Isaacs, of King street, prides himself upon his excellent and varied assortment of cigars. His favorite brand at present is called "Mungo" and those who are judges say it is good.

Best makes of pianos and organs for sale or to hire, at Bell's, 25 King street.

Lunch and Fancy Baskets,
Express Wagons, Wheelbarrows,
Fishing Poles, Hooks, Lines,
Accordeons, Concertinas,
School Bags, Slates, Pencils, Books, Ink, Mucilage, Blank and Memo. Books
Dolls, Toys, Balls, Bats, Etc., Etc., at
WATSON & CO.'S, Cor. Charlotte and Union Streets.
Branch Store Corner Charlotte and Princess Streets.

McCafferty & Daly

New Dress Goods,
In Plain, Striped and Plaid, Single and Double Widths, Newest
Colors and Combinations.

Ladies' 4 Button Kid Gloves, from 55c. per pair.
Taylor's Patent Folding Bustles. The most Stylish and Comfortable Bustle in the market.

Our Stock of Lace Curtains, in White and Cream, is very extensive and the Best Value in the City.

McCAFFERTY & DALY,
King Street.

ALFRED ISAACS,

69 and 71 King Street,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Choice HAVANA and DOMESTIC CIGARS

Full assortment of CASE BIRAR and MEERSCHAUM PIPES constantly in stock at very low prices. Smoke MUNGU CIGARS. ALFRED ISAACS.

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY.

Many Opportunities to Spend It Pleasantly With Picnic Parties.

The New Brunswick railway cannot be outdone in excursions. The announcement on another page of the facilities the road offers to reach Fredericton Monday will be very pleasing to every one who can only spend one day from home. The trains leave early and return late and an entire day can be spent at the capital, where the fireman's celebration and processions are sure to attract thousands.

A great many have signified their intention of going on the excursion to the Jemseg, which is to be held Monday, under the auspices of the Young People's institute of the Exmouth street Methodist church. The excursion affords a good opportunity to spend a pleasant day on the river and in the country, and the young people of Exmouth street church know how to make everybody happy. The steamer *Star* takes the excursionists up river, and the Methodists of the Jemseg will take care of them on the grounds.

The Union Line announces a special excursion trip of the fine steamer David Weston on Monday. No pleasanter day could be spent. If the day is fine the prospects are that hundreds will take advantage of this \$1 return trip to Fredericton. The Weston leaves Indiantown at 9 o'clock local time, and calling at the principal wharves along the river, will arrive in Fredericton at 3:30 in the afternoon. Leaving the capital at 6 o'clock the same afternoon the boat will arrive at Indiantown at 12 o'clock and the horse cars will be in waiting.

St. David's Sunday-school picnic is always one of the social events of the season, but PROGRESS feels justified in promising that it will be, this year, an even pleasanter outing than usual. Westfield will be the objective point of the excursionists and on Nase's beautiful grounds in that delightful place, they can't help having a happy day. The advertisement in another column gives full particulars, and the attractions it promises should induce many to go. It should be remembered that if next Thursday proves stormy the picnic will be postponed to the next day.

"Lalla Rookh" Again.

The *Lalla Rookh* entertainment will be repeated in the Mechanics' Institute, Tuesday evening. The illustrations were so successful and popular upon their last presentation that at the request of many citizens hundreds who were unable to gain admission upon that occasion will be given an opportunity to attend. The people have lost no interest in *Lalla Rookh* and the attendance is sure to be large. All the melodies will be Moore's and Mrs. G. H. Perley will favor the audience again.

Prof. W. F. Best will introduce some brilliant colored but odorless lights on the stage and the effect of the illustrations will be much heightened. The City Cornet band has kindly volunteered its services and Mr. Baxter will accompany Miss McLaughlan on the piano with his violin.

Better Luck Next Time.

At the time of writing, the cricket match between St. John and the Garrisons, of Halifax, is unfinished, but the prospects are a defeat for the home team. They had hard luck the first inning, but in the second did magnificent work. Carvill's batting being as fine an exhibition as St. John ever sees. The visitors batted well and bowled better. They are a lot of good fellows, and it isn't hard to take a defeat from them.

Good Luck Go With Them!

Since the inside pages of PROGRESS were printed, the Nationals have received a dispatch from Halifax asking them to play one game Monday. They have accepted and will take tonight's train.

To Patriarchs Militant.

Canton LaTour will meet next Wednesday evening. A large attendance is requested, as business of importance will be transacted.

ORATORIO CONCERTS

Mechanics' Institute.

JULY 10th and 11th.

Judas Maccabæus.

Haydn's "Seasons" and Matinee.
KING STREET RESTAURANT.

MR. W. A. LANG

Inform his numerous patrons and the public that he has opened a

First Class Eating Saloon

—IN—

TRINITY BLOCK,

where he will be pleased to see everybody. The coolest rooms, the choicest meals, and the best attendance in the city. You can't miss the place!

No. 94 King Street.

R. J. LANG, Manager

TO THE
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HEALTH FOR ALL.

Choice Table Butter and
Finest Quality Cream

Received EVERY MORNING at the
Oak Farm Dairy Butter Store,
12 CHARLOTTE STREET.

TOURIST'S GUIDE

—30—

St. John

AND THE
Province of New Brunswick,

CONTAINING

Maps, Illustrations, Railroad and Steamboat Lines, Places of Interest in the City and Province, etc., and all other information useful to Tourists, etc. Compiled by Jas. M. McHALL, Esq. Price—Paper 25 cents, Cloth 50 cents. For sale by

J. & A. McMILLAN,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

UNION LINE.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, the splendid Steamer DAVID WESTON and ACADIA, after having left St. John (Indiantown) for Fredericton, and Fredericton for St. John, EVERY MORNING (Sundays excepted), at 9 o'clock local time, calling at intermediate stops. Fare \$1.00. Connecting with New Brunswick Railway for Woodstock, Grand Falls, etc.; with Northern and Western Railway for Doaktown, Chatham, etc.; and with steamer Florenceville for Eel River, Woodstock, etc.

On THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS Excursion Tickets issued to Brown's, Williams', Oak Point and Palmer's wharves, good to return on day of issue, for 40 cents, or to Hampstead and return for 50 cents. SATURDAY EVENING AND MONDAY MORNING TRIP.—For accommodation of business men and others, Steamer ACADIA will leave Indiantown every Saturday evening, at six o'clock, for Hampstead, calling at intermediate stops. Returning, will leave Hampstead at six o'clock Monday morning, to arrive at Indiantown at nine, thus affording an opportunity to spend a day of rest and change in the country without encroaching on business hours. Fare to Hampstead, etc., and return, 50 cents. R. B. HUMPHREY, Manager. Office at wharf, Indiantown. St. John City Agency at H. Cutbush & Co.'s, Prince Wm. street.