

1829 an Eventful Year.

MR. EDITOR:—As your Halifax correspondent mentioned two important events that occurred in 1829, previous to his birth, permit me to participate in the initiation of both, to add to the information given by "Reporter." I was one and probably am now the only one living, of the nearly fifty boys who took seats in the old yellow building, as pupils of Mr. Asahel Chapin, principal of Horton Academy, on a certain day in May, 1829. I was also present at the organization of the Horton Temperance Society, in November, 1829, and was one of the sixteen who then joined it.

It may not be known to your youthful readers that previous to the year 1830, the sons of Baptists and other dissenters, were not permitted to become students of Kings' College, Windsor, unless they subscribed to the 39 Articles of the Church of England, and attended religious services only in the places of worship of the Established Church. This restriction was severely felt by parents who wished their boys to obtain better education than was afforded by the common schools of those days. My father felt the ostracism the more keenly, because the college buildings were visible from his house in Falmouth. A young lad though I was, I listened to the conversations on the subject with Baptist ministers and leading laymen who were occasional visitors. I was sent to Wolfville a year or more before the Academy was opened, to attend a school, the principal of which had a high reputation as a teacher.

At the meeting of the Baptist Association in Wolfville, in 1828, after stirring addresses by leading clergymen, including Dr. Crawley, and leading laymen, chiefly from Halifax, it was determined to establish at Wolfville institutions of learning. This action was really the initial movement, and of so great importance to the denomination, that even young children were impressed by it. A young girl then present, remembers to this day the stirring addresses to which she eagerly listened more than 71 years ago, and has just mentioned to her husband the names of the most distinguished speakers. This action of the Association created great satisfaction to parents of growing boys and to some young preachers, whose education was limited. When the Academy opened there was a good attendance, some of the students being sons of Methodist parents.

In justice to many teachers of common schools, it is proper to state that what they knew they taught well, especially the three R's. In writing, many scholars surpassed the graduates from academies and colleges of the present day; in reading they were taught to enunciate clearly, and like some of old, "they read distinctly and gave the sense;" and in arithmetic they were accurate. In the graded schools now too much is taught. (Inspector Roscoe of Wolfville, may take note of this.) The scholars are not taught to think. To illustrate: In a school of the highest grade in Windsor, where Algebra was taught, I was invited to speak or ask questions, and propounded the following: "A merchant, who had marked his goods at prices 20 per cent above cost, desired afterwards to dispose of his remaining stock, and instructed his clerks to make a reduction to purchasers of 15 per cent from the former prices. What percentage of profit did he have on the goods so reduced?" One boy only replied, "Five per cent," and I did not believe that his teachers knew that it was inaccurate until the correct figure was given by the questioner. Older and more distinguished people were equally ignorant, therefore the small boy had plenty of company. During the war the Congress of the United States advanced the duty on many articles ten per cent. Subsequently wishing to reduce the duty to the previous rate, passed a law reducing the duties that then prevailed on these articles ten per cent., and not a member of either House or the clerks of either committee having the matter in charge was a sufficient arithmetician to know that the reduction was greater than the increase. For a year the computation of fractions by Custom House officers gave much additional and unnecessary labor. Moral: Study arithmetic intelligently.

Grammar was not taught in many of the schools, and yet few persons in former years used such expressions as are made by our out of every five of educated men and women now, such as, "I never saw (or read) but one." And nine out of ten young women say of some article, "It is awful good," or "awful pretty," and of something good to eat, "it is splendid."

In Horton Academy Mr. Chapin was an excellent teacher of Latin and of some other branches, but not of Mathematics, of which he was ignorant. In after years when in charge of the U. S. Bureau of statistics I had to depend upon German clerks whose education in this respect had not been neglected. So important was this branch regarded by one of the early students at Wolfville that a valuable gold medal was presented for eight years to the student of Acadia who excelled in Mathematics, and Dr. Sawyer advised the donor that the recipient of the medal was usually well advanced in other studies. This was probably the case as several of the eight were and are lawyers of ability and one a foreign missionary.

Rev. Mr. Pryor who succeeded Mr. Chapin was a far better teacher and one of the best readers the country produced. His equal is rarely heard in any pulpit of Canada or the United States. It is refreshing to notice that one of teachers at the recent meeting of the Teachers' Institute at Canning emphasized his belief that "reading should be most carefully taught so that all pupils should read distinctly, pronounce correctly, and bring out the true meaning of what is read." Many of my fellow students were highly esteemed by me, one more so than any other, the loved and lamented Isaac Chipman. His sudden and untimely end caused great sorrow wherever he had been known. As ministers and teachers and in other vocations many of the students lived useful lives and accomplished much good.

The subsequent history of Horton Academy and of Acadia College is well known and further details need not be presented. The four students who graduated from

the College in 1843 were numerically weak but strong in sound scholarship, only one of whom, Judge Johnston of Halifax, remains. The one whom I knew best was Dr. J. Leander Bishop, who rendered essential service to his adopted country, not only as the author of the History of America Manufacturers, for which he obtained due credit, but as a surgeon during the Civil War during which his services on battle fields and in hospitals saved the lives of many others and hastened his own death. Since 1843 until recently the Institutions of learning at Wolfville have sent out year by year, minds cultured and disciplined, a credit to their Alma Mater, enriching not only the Maritime Provinces, but other countries.

At the Convention in Bridgetown several years ago I took occasion, on behalf of the United States, to thank Dr. Sawyer, President of Acadia University, for the wealth exported to that country in the shape of highly cultured young men, who had been educated at Wolfville. Some of these are now filling, acceptably, pulpits, president's and professor's chairs in Colleges; many others in the professions and in business,—all contributing to the enrichment of their adopted country. Mention was recently made of the courage, ability and perseverance of Rev. Mr. Kempton, who, as pastor of a church in Janesville, Wisconsin, accomplished a great amount of good in that city.

Referring to the various schools, the number of well qualified teachers and the facilities for mental and manual training at Acadia, your correspondent exclaimed: "Circumspice," to which I would add: "introspect." Look within at the cultivated minds and trained hands that were known to me a few years ago. WASHINGTON CITY. EDWARD YOUNG.

Historical Address of the Musquash and Dipper Harbor Church.

This church was organized on the 13th day of June, 1847, at the home of Joseph McLellan (Dipper Harbor), the Rev. Jas. Walker and Mr. McInnis, Lic., being present. At that time the following persons were baptized, viz., Sarah McLellan, Jas. Campbell, Duncan Black, Emily Belding and Margaret Buoris, who, together with thirteen others, were then organized into a church, Duncan Black being appointed as clerk and Adolphus Trafton as deacon. Mr. McInnis visited the church occasionally for the period of five years. It is stated concerning this brother, that on one occasion when visiting the church his feet were frozen so badly that in order to undress them the boots and socks had to be cut off. From this date the few members passed through a period of testing. Owing to the lack of pastoral care, and not having adopted some regular plan of work, the church dwindled away until it became extinct as an organization.

As a result of the missionary labors of the Rev. Abel Washbourne the church was reorganized on Sept. 17th, 1867, at South Musquash with fourteen members, Adolphus Trafton and David Clark being appointed deacons and Geo. Bynon church clerk. According to the record the Rev. A. Washbourne visited the church every four weeks and preached the Word of life with a good degree of success. A Sabbath School was started, consisting of teachers and seventeen scholars, also with a library of sixty-one volumes. Monthly Conferences were established, at the first of which several were received for baptism. The pastor severed his connection with the church in the month of June, 1871, having gathered together a number of the followers of Christ. Bro. Durkee then took up the work, spending three months of labor which was highly appreciated by all.

Bro. T. B. Layton, Lic., having received a call from the field, commenced his labors on the first Sabbath of November, 1871, and in accordance with the desire of the church he was regularly ordained to the work of the ministry. Bro. Layton continued his services until the eighth of June, 1873. During his pastorate an agreement was made with the trustees of the South Musquash school section as to the rent of building occupied, it then being in the hands of said trustees. The church received cheering evidence of God's power and presence under the labors of their pastor.

Throughout the summer of 1874, the brethren enjoyed the ministry of the Rev. T. W. Crawley, who, having come from Kensington, Mass., on a vacation, preached several Sabbaths. The Lord then sent Bro. F. D. Crawley, (a student from Acadia College,) who commenced an engagement of four months, which was fraught with blessed results.

In 1876 Bro. C. F. Clinch and wife received the right hand of fellowship. Our brother was then ordained as deacon. About this date Wm. J. Stewart was engaged as pastor. In accordance with the call of this church an ecclesiastical council convened at Carleton, and he was ordained to the work of the ministry on the 23rd of May, 1876. He severed his connection after a brief pastorate, having baptized several as a result of his labors.

During the following years the pulpits have been regularly supplied by twenty-two different pastors, consisting mostly of students from Acadia College. The names of M. P. King, E. R. Currie, Henry Mellick, R. O. Morse, S. H. Shaw, H. Waring and many others still remain fragrant. The visits of Missionary Wallace were owned of God and abundantly blessed.

Among other important changes has been the erection of five houses of worship, at a cost of \$3,300. On the tablet erected in St. Paul's Cathedral to the memory of that distinguished artist, Sir Christopher Wren, who laid the plan and lived to finish that edifice, is inscribed the following terse and appropriate sentence, "Readers if you would see a monument of him look about you." We need only to look about us to find many monuments of our Baptist fathers. Memorials of them meet us on every part of the field. They will long continue to live in the permanency of their work, with the consciousness that there is no debt standing against these buildings. Should we not ask today, what shall we render unto the Lord for all his mercies shown?

The church roll reports an enrollment of 243 members. The resident of to-day numbering 112, with five office bearers. Death has made its inroads, forty-one having been borne away to the spirit world. While rejoicing over the victories achieved, we have to lament the loss sustained. Yet have we not cause to acknowledge the divine goodness in enabling our departed ones to triumph in the prospect of eternal glory?

On reviewing all the mercies God has showed to us as a people, we are constrained to acknowledge that nothing has failed of all that the Lord hath promised, and that he has blessed us abundantly, above all that we or our fathers expected. He has made us a people who we are not a people, and called us to become the partakers and witnesses of his great salvation. May our conduct ever evidence that we have received the grace of God in truth. Let us live in the spirit of deep piety and of entire devotedness to God, remembering that the shadows of this world will soon pass away and our earthly roll-calls will be brought to a close, and that the grand business of life is to secure an eternity of happiness. The day is at hand when everything of a merely temporal nature will fade from our view, and when the solemn realities of the invisible world will open before us. Then Christ will be all in all to the believer, who, resting on the atoning blood and almighty love, will be enabled to triumph over the last enemy, and enter into the joy of the Lord.

WM. M. FIELD.

A Word from the Great Northwest.

We are having the first snowstorm of the season today. The winter hitherto has been remarkable. I drove 12 miles (half the distance before sunrise) on Christmas morning without gloves. Such has been the mildness of the season right along except a few, very few, days when the mercury played around 30° below zero. We have our first sleighing today. Everybody is glad that the snow has come.

The good work of the Lord is moving forward. The college at Brandon has come to stay this time, we believe. Too much praise cannot be given to Prof. McKee for holding the fort so long; nor can the work he has done be easily over-estimated. Now with a tried and true man like Dr. McDiarmid as principal and the staff of instructors under him, we believe that Bro. McKee's life-dream is crystallizing into a permanent reality and that "The Brandon Baptist College" is to become to us in this great Northwest what Acadia has so long been and now is to the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces.

Evangelist Pugsley's work among the churches is being blessed. At Carmen and Melita there have been several recent conversions and baptisms. In the regular work of the churches progress is being made. The churches at Neppawa and Calgary have this month declared their intention henceforth to be self-sustaining. Bro. Litch, a son of Acadia, is pastor at Calgary.

Bro. Crosley, another of Acadia's sons, has, last Lord's day, dedicated a beautiful house of worship at Bolland, so nearly paid for as not to seriously embarrass the noble band of Christians that he leads; and the church at Emerson, under the pastorate of the tried and true Mellick, still another of Acadia's boys, is making long strides—the last being the removal of their pastor from a rented home to a commodious parsonage—their very own. And what shall I say more, for time would fail me to speak of Freeman, Hall and Vincent, all sons of Acadia and men of energy and ability, who are doing a noble work for Christ in their respective fields of labor. As for my own work, it never was less wearisome nor more delightful and, thank God, it is not barren of results. At Gretna, that German town from which I sent my last note, at the closing meeting of the two weeks spent there, about thirty persons rose to show that they had "received a definite blessing from the Lord during the meetings." The next two weeks were spent at Barclay—a little discouraged country church. The Lord blessed them and added six to their numbers. Last night two weeks' services were brought to a close in this town by an hour's talk on baptism before a large and most attentive congregation, followed by the baptism of four persons and the administration of the Lord's Supper. About a dozen others profess conversion, most of whom will follow their Lord in baptism. I go to-day to Bois-savain for a three weeks' campaign. Pray for me, dear reader.

Some are sad and some are glad at the political change in the province. All are glad at the news the wire flashes from the seat of war in Africa this morning of the approaching relief of Ladysmith; and my gladness is increased by the receipt from a dear brother from the East, of a cheque of one thousand dollars (\$1000) to be expended in mission work in this country. No part of this is for my own support. This same generous brother sends me \$10 per month to meet my own needs. Since my last acknowledgement I received for my own mission from my never failing "friend" \$20. Robert Bars, again, \$2. Many thanks, dear brethren. And now, dear Editor, let me express the wish and hope that this last year of the century may be the best year in the history of the "MESSENGER AND VISITOR" and all its constituency and the interests that it represents.

Manitoba, Jan. 13th.

D. G. MACDONALD

P. S.—The Manitoba and Northwest contingent of the great Baptist army are grateful, first to God and then to you brethren in the East, for the generous response you give from time to time to the appeals of the men who go among you to represent our needs and possibilities. We are grateful that that princely giver, Deacon John W. Bars, has given us a thousand dollar thought, and that so many others are generously supporting the work. Continue in this kind of well-doing, my brethren, for in no mission field known to me will your contributions return larger dividends than in this. "God loveth a cheerful giver" and so do we Baptists in the "Great West." D. G. M.