

The Daily Herald.

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METHODIST SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

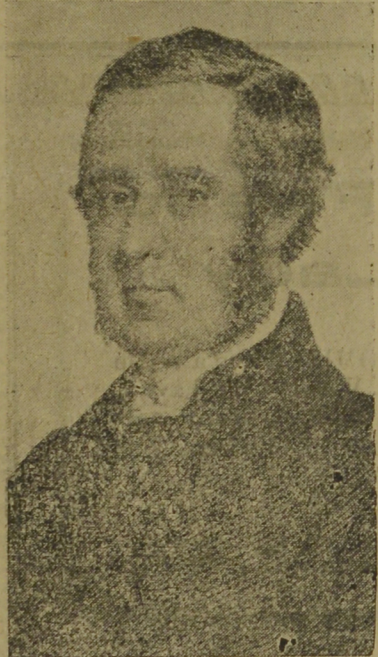
A Series of Interesting and Uplifting Services.

ELOQUENT AND SCHOLARLY ADDRESSES BY

Rev. R. W. Weddall and Rev. Wm. Dobson.

PUBLIC MEETING UNDER AUSPICES OF S. SCHOOL AND EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Methodists of Fredericton have every reason to be proud of the first day's celebration yesterday of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of their church to the worship of God. Four meetings were held during the day, and all were well attended, interesting, helpful and instructive. Five former pastors of the church were in attendance, four of whom took part in one or the other of the services. Rev. G. O. Gates, of Lunenburg, N. S., whose earnest labors here thirty-six years ago are well remem-



REV. CHARLES CHURCHILL,
First Pastor of present Church, 1852-56.

bered by the older of the adherents of the Methodist church, conducted the love feast at 9.45 a. m.; Rev. R. W. Weddall, of Halifax, who withdrew from this circuit nine years ago, preached at the regular eleven o'clock service; Rev. William Dobson, of Windsor, whose pastorate here fifteen years ago is looked back upon with pleasure not only by his own denomination but by many adherents of other churches who have heard and profited by his eloquent pulpit utterances, was the preacher of the evening, and Rev. Dr. Chapman, who only lately withdrew from our midst, was among the speakers at the mass meeting in the afternoon. The choir of the church, which has reached a high state of efficiency under the leadership of L. A. Willmot Lemont, provided special music for the services, which contributed in no small degree to their success. A report of the several meetings is herewith appended:

THE LOVE FEAST.

The celebration commenced at 9.45 a. m. with a love feast in the vestry, conducted by Rev. G. O. Gates. Despite the early hour there was a fair attendance, the stalwart workers of the church being well represented. Miss Bright Sampson presided at the organ and the proceedings opened with music, after which Rev. Mr. Huestis led in prayer. Biscuit and cold water were then served to the congregation, Messrs. C. A. Sampson, W. A. Gibson, J. J. Weddall and W. B. Coulthard, attending to this part of the service. Rev. Mr. Huestis then spoke a few words to the gathering, referring to the pleasure which it gave him as a

former pastor of the church, to be enabled to take part in the jubilee celebration. For sixty-five years he had felt the divine grace of the Savior, and forty-three years of his life had been spent in the Christian ministry. The revered gentleman spoke with great vigor for one of his years, and his address had a marked impression on his hearers.

Short addresses were also made by Pastor Rogers, Joseph Gill, William Lemont, C. A. Sampson, Thomas Harris, W. A. Gibson, Andrew Lottimer, Rev. Dr. Chapman, Rev. J. J. Teasdale, Rev. J. J. Colter, Miss Jessie Hooper, returned missionary, Rev. Mr. Dobson, and Fred J. Todd in the order named. The benediction by Rev. Mr. Huestis brought the meeting to a close.

THE MORNING SERVICE.

An Able and Scholarly Address by Rev. R. W. Weddall.

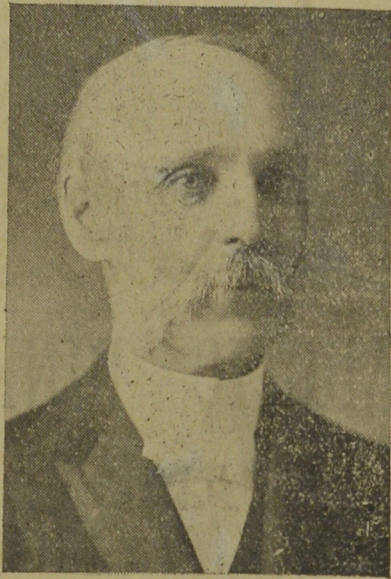
The regular morning service, commenced at eleven o'clock and had a good attendance. Potted plants, tastefully arranged were displayed on either side of the pulpit, and conspicuously shown on the front of the mammoth pipe organ, were the dates 1852-1902, covering the period of the churches existence. On the platform in addition to Pastor Rogers were Revs. G. O. Gates, William Dobson, R. W. Weddall, J. J. Teasdale, and Dr. Chapman, former pastors of the church, and Rev. J. J. Colter. The service commenced with the singing of a carol entitled "Good News from the Hills of Judea," which was followed by prayer from Rev. Mr. Dobson, Hymn No 91, "God of Bethel by Whose Hand," was next rendered by the choir, after which Rev. Dr. Chapman offered prayer. This was followed with the invocation, "Lift Your Hearts and Voices," by the choir, and then Rev. J. J. Colter read the 115th Psalm. Rev. Mr. Weddall read the lesson, which was from the 2nd chapter of Acts, and preceded the singing of "Ye Neighbors and Friends of Jesus Draw Near."

Pastor Rogers briefly addressed the congregation, making reference to the object of the gathering and extending a hearty welcome to the former pastors of the church, who had journeyed to Fredericton to participate in its jubilee celebration. He hoped that one result of the jubilee would be that the church would be freed from debt. It was not their intention to urge people to subscribe, but it was their desire that all should contribute whatever amount they felt they could spare. Already fifteen members of the church had each pledged \$100, which with other amounts promised brought the subscriptions close to the \$2,000 mark. He hoped before long to be able to report the church free from debt.

The Sermon.

Rev. R. W. Weddall, pastor of Grafton Street Methodist church, Halifax, was the preacher, and treated the gathering to an able and scholarly discourse, which commanded the closest attention. He chose for his text Psalm 85: 6: "Wilt Thou not receive us again that Thy people may rejoice in Thee." At the outset he alluded to the year of jubilee in Israel and thought that portion of the gospel would apply to the jubilee of the Fredericton Methodist church. He regarded the event as one from which those who had the gospel of Christ in their hearts would derive an inspiration that would lead to great things for God. The century just closed had witnessed evidence of God's wonderful power and the blessing of God had rested upon the church whose fiftieth anniversary was being celebrated. He believed that there was need of a great and sweeping revival in this world, not a revival of sentiment, but a revival of intellect, and indications of it were already manifested in Australia and Japan. The organized church of God is in a better position today than it ever was, and but let the church remain steady and the conquest of sin will not long be delayed; the old world will yet swing out of darkness into light, and you people who are celebrating your jubilee will have a share in the glorious consummation. The great revival to come will be a revival translating into being that sermon on the Mount—a sermon designed to make men more like God and earth more like Heaven. It will be a revival that will re-

It will be a revival that will bring into requisition the great principles of human stewardship and consecrate to God the business of the earth. It will be a revival that will render a settlement of international differences possible



REV. R. W. WEDDALL,
Pastor of the Church, 1895-98.

without resorting to the awful blood shed such as is witnessed every few years, a revival that will permit of the bird building its nest in the cannon's mouth. It will be a revival that will throng our churches with devout worshippers, and thereafter the rich will have no prominence over the poor, and the poor will not be looked on with suspicion by the rich. It must be remembered, that God is no respecter of persons. Jesus Christ, the only person since the world began, who had the choice of parentage, chose to be a poor man's son, and remained poor. It will be a revival that will recognize no creed on earth unless that creed agrees with the teachings of Jesus Christ. It will be the grandest revival that the world has ever witnessed—grandier than that of Pentecost in the first century. Nineteen hundred years ago the whole kingdom of Christ floated on the sea of Galilee in a boat that could not live on the Atlantic ocean, today seven hundred and fifty millions march under the banner of Christ. The world is richer and better by far than it was in those days, and men are more liberal. We have the diamond mines of South Africa, the gold of the Klondike and Kootenay, millions for London's poor, public libraries without number and millions for missions. The first offering laid at Jesus' feet was of gold, and nineteen hundred years later we lay our offering at His feet and bring forth the golden diadem and crown Him Lord of all. The early followers of Jesus Christ depended on moral tradition for the word of God, now we have the Bible circulated in millions, and it can be bought for as low as a penny.

The preacher here went on to show that it was the custom of God to begin every great enterprise with man; the truth has never been revealed to an organization or committee; it came to the lonely watcher at Bethlehem, to Paul, to Luther, to Wesley, and it will come again in the same way. The question arises here, where is the one who without robbing the Christ divine of the honor which is His alone, is to become the light of the world? Where is the man who is to furnish the world with a sample of true living? He may be yet unborn and that holy alliance of love which is to give birth to the new Savior may be yet unformed. He may be yet sleeping in his mother's arms. Now saw in the little baby in his mother's arms in ancient Egypt, the deliverer of this world, the redeemer of our race; nor did any see in the baby in his cradle on the waters of the Nile the leader of a nation, the commander of an army. This is how God works his wonders, and we know not but what there is rocking in the cradle today one who will save the nation, tame the seas, level the mountains and lead the world. When God provides the leader there must be men and women to make up the army. What would have been the use of Roberts or Kitchener without the support of those who acted with them? What could Wesley have done years ago had he not been able to summon good men and women to lead? What could Christ have done without the support of the twelve men who sacrificed everything for truth and righteousness? So when God gives the leader there must be men and women who fear

deem politics from its fallen state and make it no longer possible for men to secure parliamentary honors by bribery and corruption. It will be a revival that will make the man who sells his vote and the party who buys it such objects of pitiable contempt that they will hesitate before consenting to stultify their manhood or sell their birthright. It will be a revival that will convert the great and grinding monopolies of the countries into God honoring combinations. It will be a revival that will dethrone the monster intemperance, which is crushing in its fiendish claws the body of every fifth baby born in this land of ours, nothing but sin to follow him. The world is smaller now than it was in the days of Pentecost, and the descent of the Holy Ghost in London or Fredericton would quickly be known everywhere.

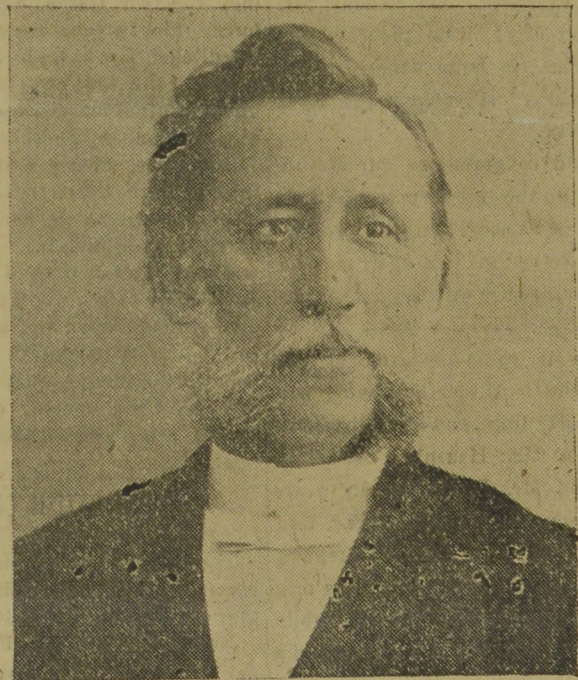
Continuing, the preacher said that half a century had passed since the Methodist church had been dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, and what memories crowd into us as we gather for service this morning. Many of you have worshipped here continuously since that time. Many of you have had administered here the solemn ordinance of baptism, and before this altar men and women have pledged their faith in each other until death, and from this sanctuary have been carried forth loved ones to rest at peace with God. There is no church that had for him the memories that gather around the Fredericton Methodist church. His family name had been upon its records for over thirty years, and from this church his beloved father was carried forth one winter's day—the first interment in your beautiful cemetery on the banks of your beautiful river. Here twenty-nine years ago he (the preacher) received at the hands of godly men his ordination into the Christian ministry, and with this congregation he spent three of the happiest years of his ministry. Here in 1897 the conference of N. B. and P. E. I. with which he was so long happily united, conferred upon him its

Weddall, and W. J. Osborne, the Sabbath school superintendent. The proceedings opened with the singing of "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name," by the full choir of the church, after which Rev. Mr. Weddall led in prayer.

Pastor Rogers was the first speaker, and explained that the afternoon meeting had been arranged in order to give the young people an opportunity to take part in the jubilee exercises. He hoped that memories of the service would always linger in their minds and be the means of binding them more firmly to the church of their fathers.

After the choir had rendered another hymn, W. J. Osborne, superintendent of the Sabbath School, was introduced, and delivered a brief but interesting address. He told of giving his heart to God twenty-five years ago, and believed that accounted for his presence with them. He spoke of the great opportunities before boys and girls of today, and considered it their duty to take every advantage of them, and strive to become good men and women. A great deal depended on the Sabbath School if we are to have good boys and girls, and without good boys and girls we could not have a good community. He regretted that children did not come to Sunday School better prepared for their work, and he hoped that on this jubilee occasion that parents would make up their minds to do what they could to strengthen the hands of Sunday School teachers. He would not say that parents were at fault, but would remind them that it was a serious thing to allow their boys and girls to leave home without instruction in the Bible.

Rev. Mr. Huestis, who was next introduced, spoke to the children in a fatherly manner and was listened to with great interest. Children were to him lambs of the flock, and he thought no other class of human society was so interesting and loveable. The bright eyes and faces of those whom he saw before him, reminded him of a similar occasion thirty-six years ago, when he was pastor of the



REV. JABEZ A. ROGERS,
Present Pastor of the Church.

presidential office. He esteemed it no small honor to be asked to participate in the jubilee service. This had to do with the present, but what of the future? There will be a new congregation, a new choir, others in the pulpit, a new quarterly board, for we will soon be gathered home. But you will have the same God, the same redeemer, Christ, the same Holy Ghost that your fathers had. Then let us do our share towards bringing about that better day when glory shall dwell in our land, when mercy and truth shall dwell within us, and we shall be led in the way of salvation.

While the offering was being taken the choir sang with splendid effect "Oh, Zion that brings Good Tidings," and afterwards Hymn No. 741, "Hark the Song of Jubilee."

The benediction by Rev. Mr. Huestis brought the service to a close.

THE AFTERNOON MEETING.

Sabbath School Children and Teachers Addressed by Former Pastors.

The mass meeting held in the afternoon, under the auspices of the Epworth League and Sabbath school, was largely attended and proved most interesting and profitable. Pastor Rogers occupied the chair and on the platform with him were Rev. Messrs. Huestis, Dobson and

church. Those children were now grown up, but the ones before him resembled their parents. This is an age of progress and children don't stay young as long as they did when he was a child. Then they were babies until six years old, but now they leave that stage at four. He wanted them to remember the brevity of the youthful period, and also to bear in mind that more is done in that time towards molding character for time and eternity than in all other periods of life. He wanted them to value highly the youthful time of life, and remember that neglected opportunities could never be recalled. It was not possible to turn sinners into saints without instruction. You cannot expect children to be converted to a serious change of heart until they are old enough to sin. He had given his heart to God when sixteen and before he was twelve he had read the bible through. He had been saved from sowing his wild oats and today he was possessed of sound body and mind, and he thanked God for it. He did not feel very old, though he was past 81, and hoped to be spared for some years yet.

After the choir had rendered "Hosanna be the Children's song" Rev. Dr. Chapman was introduced and spoke in his usual entertaining manner. He was glad to be able to take part in the jubilee services, and though the meetings of the morning had been interesting, they did

[CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.]