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Early Methodism in Rich- mond Hill.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

Soon after the rebellion of 1837, thoughts were entertained of building a place of worship for the society, but the province was still in an unsettled condition. Then, as now, religion sometimes got swamped in politics. The Methodists took sides, and some for their zeal and activity in circulating their opinions were arrested and had their latitude circumscribed during that historic agitation. Yet even in those dark days our village was not without men who kept an eye on the interests of Methodism, determined as early as possible to provide for her needs. In those days, too, there were blunt and outspoken preachers, who gave broad hints that a church was necessary. The Rev. David Wright, who came to the circuit a second time, once began the service, after giving a significant look around, with the remark, "the same old log school house, brethren, and as dirty as ever."

Among others of that day who were anxious for a more suitable place in which to worship God was Mr. Robert Campbell, a talented and eloquent local preacher, a pious and devout man, one highly respected by all who knew him. By him, Jan'y 28th, 1846, was deeded the half acre of ground now owned by Mr. Charles Mason, to the following trustees: Messrs. Amos Wright, Abraham Law, Robert Campbell, Robert Hewison, William Wright and Benjamin Jones. This was fifty years ago. Preparations were immediately made for building. A frame of timbers, massive enough to last for centuries, was erected and closed in. Mr. Thos. Harris, father of Mr. John Harris, of our village, was the architect, and Mr. Chamberlain builder. (A Chamberlain built the first Methodist church, and a Chamberlain, half a century later, helped to build the second). In 1847 it was dedicated by Rev. Anson Green, then in the height of his popularity. But the building was long in finishing. It was much more difficult to erect a \$3000 church in the forties than a \$17,000 in the eighties. For many months there was nothing but the unplastered walls, rough planks set on blocks for seats, and a board platform for a pulpit. The new church was illuminated by the "light of other days," long tallow candles which flickered and flared in tin sconces hung on the casings of the windows, requiring the attention of the sexton several times during the service, to the intense amusement of us youngsters when by his shaky hand a light would be snuffed out. To the candles succeeded a chandelier, with two smoky oil lamps, then came coal oil, then gas. The pulpit then settled in its place, and the body of the church was filled with pews, all with doors, close communion style, and then to accommodate the increasing congregation a gallery and a large room for the Sabbath school was built.

In 1879 a catastrophe overtook the church and all its contents, which had been brought together under such formidable difficulties. On Sunday, the 21st December, it was burned to the ground. The Rev. J. W. McCallum took for his morning sermon "The Accidents of Life," and in his sermon said, "who knows how soon fire may overtake them," when at the same time fire was actually burning in the school room within a few feet of his back. The congregation had just left the church when the flames burst through the roof. The old church was sacred to the hearts of many because of tender memories. Within its walls many of our villagers had been baptized, and others joined in wedlock. From its pulpit many had received their first religious impressions, and to the majority of its members it had been their spiritual birthplace. Before its altar had rested the remains of many a departed loved one, and from its sacred desk the consolation of the gospel had been conveyed to many a bereaved and stricken family. Its pulpit had been filled by many of the most eminent ministers in the Canadian Methodist Conference: the Ryersons—Egerton, William and John—Wellington Jeffers, Morley Punshon, Wilkinson, Bredon, Wood, Jervase Smith, Lachlan Taylor, Spencer, Potts, Carrol and Curson.

Among the pioneers of early Methodism in this vicinity in its more modern days are the names of the fathers of those with whom we are familiar, some of whom are leading spirits in sustaining the cause to-day—Wright, Law, Sanderson, Hewison, and many others. Mr. John Sanderson, grandfather of the Sandersons of to-day, was a local preacher in England when preaching the gospel outside of the Established Church had to be a specially granted privilege. The family have in their possession an heirloom which reads as follows:

"This is to certify to all whom it may concern that the house of John Sanderson, situated in the Parish of Wawne, in the County and Diocese of York, intended to be used as a place of worship by His Majesty's Protestant dissenting sub-

jects commonly called Methodists, was this day registered in the Consistory Court of His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York as a place of public worship of Almighty God for Protestant dissenters. As witness my hand this tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six.

"Jos. BUCKLE, Deputy Registrar."
Among the men of good report who did the circuit legislation in those days were Father William Lawson, who, like an old war horse, was always ready for battle, especially when he saw any of us younger shoots swerving from the old landmarks of Methodism. Major Frank Button, Wilmot, Hunter, Galloway, Rupert, Parkiss, Frank, Garton, Cook and Leaf, all men good and true, who never flinched when duty called them to the front. The major portion of these sturdy laborers in the Master's vineyard are now in the realms above.

Methodism has not been lacking in earnest men, neither has it been without its devoted women. In all the affairs of the church the women have been ready helpers. Mrs. Henry Sanderson was instant in season in everything that concerned the temporal or spiritual interests of the church, the Sabbath school and the prayer circle. Her health was shattered and her life sacrificed in her unceasing efforts to do good. Mrs. Parker Crosby, like an angel of mercy, went from house to house ministering to the financial and spiritual necessities of many within and without the church. And Mrs. Sterling, lovely in character and queenly in deportment, abounded in liberality before and after death to the church she loved. These devoted women have all left the church militant on earth to join the church triumphant above.

Other women of later days have followed in their footsteps in their work of faith and labor of love, and by their noble efforts have helped to secure to the young people of the present generation the comfortable spiritual surroundings which they at present enjoy, so that today they worship God in a beautiful church, which for lofty spire, fine toned bell, great seating capacity, splendid acoustics, and excellent organ, is not exceeded by any church north of the city of Toronto.

WM. HARRISON.

Richmond Hill, April 19th, 1895.

Thornhill

(From an occasional correspondent)

Notwithstanding the depression in business of the past few months, the merchants and tradesmen of this little hamlet have been fairly successful. All seem to have the necessities and comforts of life, and some are not without its luxuries.

There is a great demand in Toronto for the famous Hawthorn Mineral Water; the villagers may be seen in large numbers filling their pails at the springs every evening. It is probably the free use of this natural remedy for so many bodily ailments that keeps the people here so healthy.

Last Advent and Lent, for the first time in its history, the altar, pulpit, lectern, and so on, of Trinity Church were vested in the proper ecclesiastical color for the season; the purple frontals, &c., having been presented by Mrs. E. Langstaff, of Brooklyn, N. Y., that very earnest and energetic churchwoman, who does so much for her own parish, St. John's, and indeed for the church throughout the whole Diocese of Long Island. The congregation at Thornhill have now pontals in all the ecclesiastical colors, except that for the season of Trinity. On the great festivals of Christmas and Easter all the services were well attended, and the number of communicants far above the average. The decorations, too, were very chaste and appropriate, the Easter floral cross and vases of flowers being especially beautiful. The music on Easter morning included Jackson's *Te Deum*, the anthem, "He is not here, but is risen," Merbecke's *Kyrie*, Plummer's *Ter Sanctus* and *Gloria in Excelsis*; whilst the *Venite*, *Benedictus*, and *Gloria Patri* were taken to Gregorian Tones. The congregation showed their appreciation of the faithful and efficient services of the organist, Miss Flora Langstaff, by presenting her with a special offering. They hope also to have one of Warren's best small pipe organs in the church by next Christmas.

On Friday last the pupils attending Langstaff Public school gave their annual entertainment. The building was crowded to the doors; the little ones acquitted themselves most creditably, and the whole affair was a complete success. Miss Langstaff's performance on the violin, accompanied by Miss E. Ball on the organ, received an enthusiastic encore, to which the young ladies responded very graciously and in their well known graceful manner. The village brass band was also in attendance, and added much to the enjoyment of the evening. On their way to the school room they stopped at the Rectory grounds, and, having formed themselves into a circle on the lawn,

favoured the members of the household with some choice selections. They must not only have a faculty for music, but must also have an excellent instructor, to have learned to play with such taste and precision in the short time which has elapsed since they organized last autumn.

Patterson Masonic Lodge held its last regular meeting on the 2nd inst., when, amongst other business transacted, a committee was appointed to arrange for a picnic or some such entertainment to be held some time during the summer. The next regular meeting takes place on the 6th prox., the chief business being the election of officers, who will be installed on Monday, June 24th, the Festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Maple

Quarterly services were held in the Methodist church on Sunday last. Impressive sermons were preached both morning and evening by Rev. M. Fawcett, of Toronto.

Mr. J. P. Rupert, of Toronto, was visiting in the village on Sunday. His many friends in Maple were pleased to meet him again.

Last Friday being Arbor Day, the teachers and pupils of the public school spent the afternoon in cleaning the yard and planting trees. Eighteen trees were planted, which will add much to the beauty of the grounds.

Mrs. (Dr.) Ashbrook and Master Edmond and Miss Lucy Ashbrook, of Washington, Pennsylvania, and Miss Evaline Collins, of Toronto, are guests of Mr. M. Powers.

Mr. Shunk, of Clinton, is spending a few days with friends in this place.

Miss B. Powers, of Toronto, is home on a short visit.

T. W. Kirby, M. D., has secured a practice at Sault St. Marie on the American side where he intends going next week. We wish him success in his future calling.

Carrville

Two of our citizens hitched up a spanking team of ponies and sped away to the Holland Landing a short time ago to fish. The catch was large and the hearts of many were made glad on their return by getting some of the finny tribe.

Tuscorora fisherman visit the mill ponds here very often with hook and line, but the pay is poor.

A number of the ladies of our town belonging to the E. L. C. E. went to Maple on Monday night to meet the society of that place; they had a good time; the rig was full; gentlemen had to stay at home.

A concert & entertainment was held in the school house under the management of the side walk committee. The children of the day school took part in it, doing their part well, under the training of Miss Evans, but we cannot particularise where all did so well. The dialogues, the singing and the whistling—all was good. Mr. Jos. Tyndall occupied the chair. There was only one thing more that the boys would like to hear, and that was a tenor solo by W. W., but the programme was too long without it.

The E. L. C. E. society is doing well. Great praise is due the ladies that are pushing on a good work.

The Sabbath School is doing well. Some of the scholars walk three miles to get here. Mr. Hamilton, late of Chicago, visited and addressed the school for a short time on Sabbath last.

Mr. Joseph Gardner was visiting at Mr. John Nixon's on Sunday.

The quiet Sabbath mornings of the inhabitants of Mill street and Dufferin avenue are somewhat disturbed by the rattle of milk cans of late.

Miss Minnie Woods visited at Mr. John Nixon's on Sunday.

Mrs. Peter McCarty, one of whose legs was so badly broken last fall, is able to walk as far as Carrville church again.

Mr. Wm. Cook is in Toronto on the Grand Jury.

Our Spring Exhibition.

The Spring Exhibition to be held here on the Queen's Birth-day, promises to surpass anything yet given in this place. Besides the usual prizes for horses, cattle, ladies' work, etc., good prizes are being offered for speeding in the ring, so that many fast horses are sure to compete. There will be an open trot, and a 2.50 trot; purses for each \$60, besides a running race, farmers' trot, and best lady's turnout. Also mile and two mile bicycle races. But the great drawing card this year will be the feats of skill in front of the Grand Stand by the celebrated Parkor-Partello troupe. The performers will introduce some wonderful performances on the horizontal bar and trapeze, to conclude with their laughable specialty "Celestial Pastimes in a Wash-House," introducing their trick laundry. There will be no extra charge, and those who visit Richmond Hill Fair this year will say that they got the worth of their money. The concert in the evening will be given by a company of first-class artists.