

The Durham Review

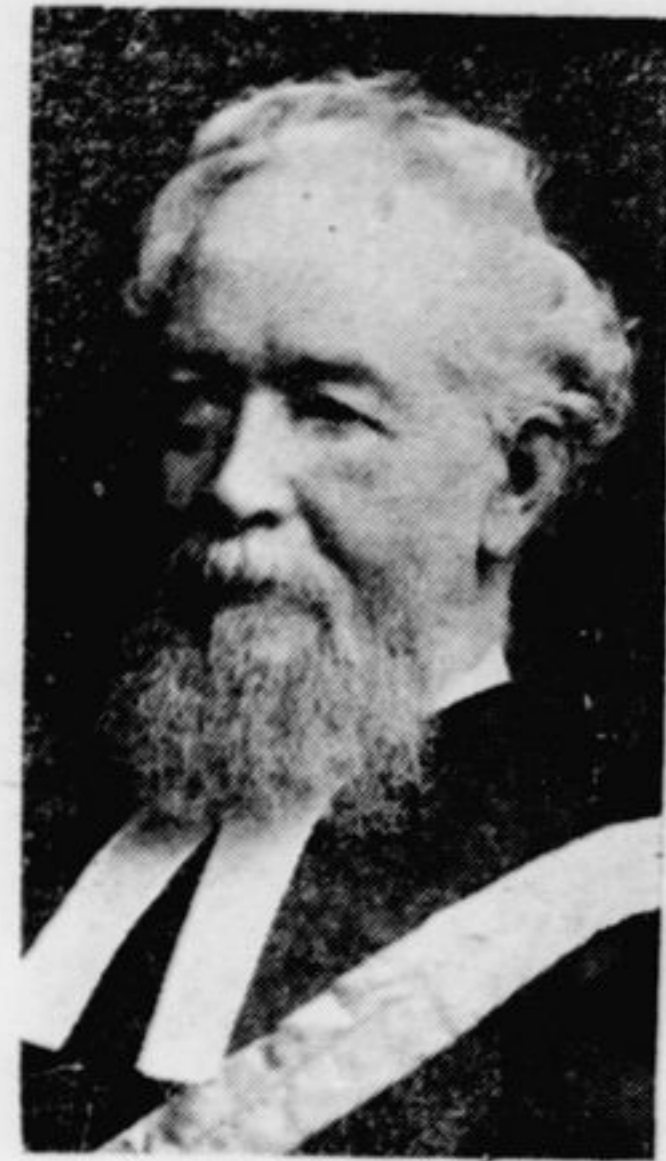
THURSDAY, JULY 1st, 1909.

Jubilee Services.

Continued from page 1.

question of the introduction of instrumental music into the service arose, then followed disunion for a time the formation of a new congregation, the building of the present church, having a separate pastor. Four or five years the two bodies ran side by side, the other party being ministered to by Rev. Mr. Forest. At last in 1885, the old harmony was restored, the first minister of the reunited church, (Rev. Mr. Park having retired,) being Rev. R. McNair, who ministered from 1886 to 1891 when he resigned. Rev. A. G. Jansen was called in 1892 and continued pastor till 1891, when he resigned, and in the same year Rev. Wm. Farquharson, B. D. got the call and he has thus surpassed in length of service all his predecessors except Mr. Park.

The progress of the early days has been continued up to the present time. At no period was there stagnation. Not ours to measure the spiritual life, but



REV. DR. FLETCHER, Of Hamilton, Ex-Moderator of the General Assembly who preached at Sunday morning service and gave an inspiring address on Monday evening.

The material progress made especially of recent years is an indication that that is not wanting. The new church built in 1882 was in 1900 enlarged, rescaled and otherwise improved, commodious sheds were built soon after, in 1894 the present manse was purchased and last year only a small part remained unpaid, but all provided for, last year a new organ was installed and about one-third of the cost has already been met. Rev. Mr. Park's initial salary was \$400, the present salary is \$1100 and manse. Membership 10 yrs ago was 230, last year was 368. Contributions to missions have more than doubled, over \$100 was donated to the Century Fund of the Church, and the total amount contributed by the congregation in 1908 for all purposes was \$3052.38.

These are all testimony to a virile congregation reflecting credit alike on pulpit and pew.



MRS. CHAS. WATSON

Mr. and Mrs. Watson, now of North Egremont, are living links with the early days. Mr. Watson built the first Presbyterian Church in 1856 and his sons did the woodwork of the present church. He was also the first precursor of the Jubilee period.

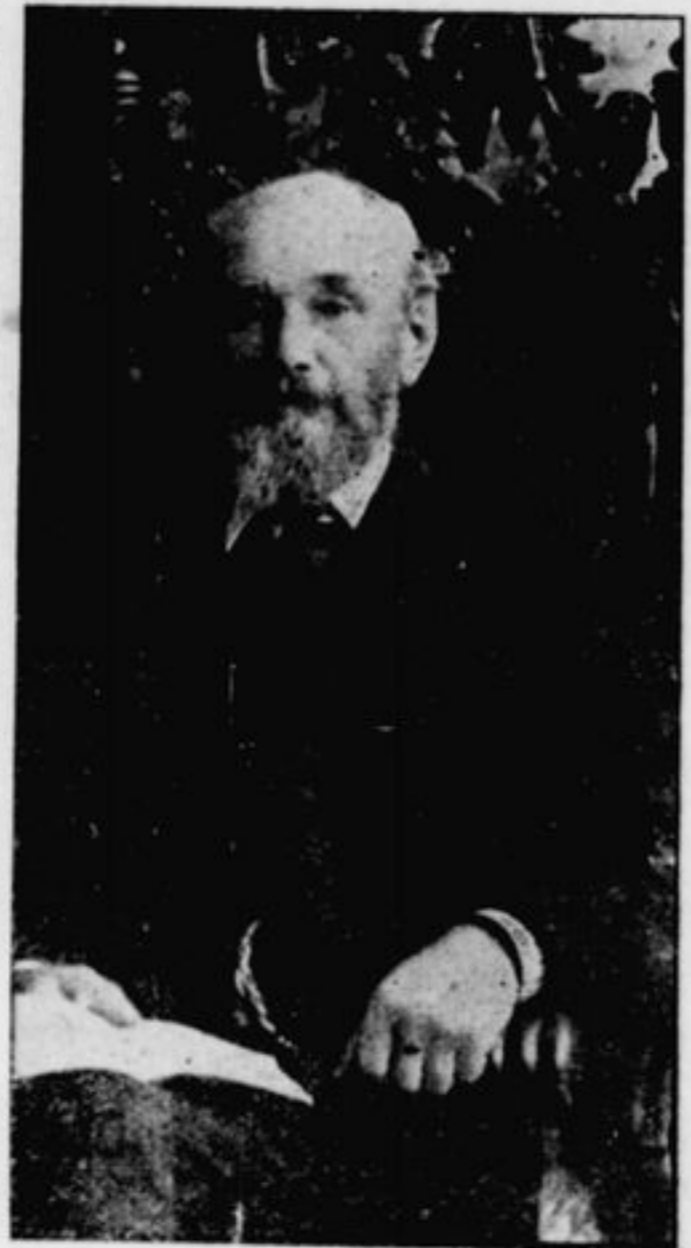


CHAS. WATSON

Sunday Services

The morning service was taken by Rev. Dr. Fletcher of Hamilton, an ex-Moderator of the General Assembly. The church was filled to its capacity, chairs being placed in the aisles. Those taking communion numbered 323, the largest figures ever reached, amongst them being some 8 or 9 who visited on the occasion.

The opening hymn was the old pastoral psalm "The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want," which was sung with a great and warm heartiness, as was the second hymn so appropriate to a Jubilee time, "O God of Bethel by whose hand Thy people still are fed Who through this weary pilgrimage, Hast all our fathers led." &c.



MR. CHAS. MOFFAT, SR. One of the pioneers in Durham Presbyterianism.

The pastor, Dr. Farquharson in a few appropriate words to the congregation recalled the early days and saw great reason for thankfulness in those present for blessings handed down by the pioneers, and the example they had furnished us in duty well done. He then introduced Dr. Fletcher, who, notwithstanding his 77 years, has pulp-

withstanding his 77 years, has pulp- power still, but more, he surrounds himself with a gospel sweetness which draws men to him. His text was from John 15: 9, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." It was a delightful sermonette on the wonderful love of God, he saw nothing to compare it to except it being looking into the deep blue vault of heaven which is boundless. Not only greatness, but a dignity characterizes God's love, it was "an everlasting love," it was unchangeable, not as human love, often capricious. This love was all around us and but for our own dark hidings, by remissness of duty, giving way to temptation, &c., would constantly shine. Yet, though obscured by no fault of His, there was still a smiling face.

Prayer was the atmosphere of the Christian life: a stranger to prayer a stranger to spiritual life. To grow like the loving Saviour who reflected the loving Father's love, we must gaze upon his picture as presented in the Scriptures by the great artist the Holy Spirit. Referring to the coming communion to follow the sermon, he called it a great example of God's love, "a sacred duty, a precious privilege, a great honor to observe the death and dying love of our Saviour."

Grand Spicely, Old Hundred was the opening psalm, and no anthem in the grandest cathedral could arouse more devout feelings than this fine old psalm, which is passing down the ages with undiminished vigor. Those who can look back 40 or 50 years would perhaps desire to sing it slower than is now wont, but fast or slow it is a fine well-reasoned exhortation to praise the Lord whose mercy is everlasting whose truth endureth to all generations.

Miss Maggie Hunter contributed a fine solo and the choir, morning and evening were equal to the occasion with fine anthems.

Dr. Farquharson then fittingly introduced the Knox College Professor of Homiletics, who, as was Dr. Fletcher was making his first visit to Durham.

He took his text from II Cor 1: 20 pointing out how a trifling incident of a missionary tour had been the vehicle of conveying a great truth. God's promises to men are vast as they are important. Man, everywhere is inearnably religious, though where men look to the Divine, though in many shapes and ways. In laying such foundations by God in



JAMES BURGESS A pioneer of the early days and prominent in Sunday School work.

The Afternoon.

In addition to Teachers and Scholars a great number of older heads were present at the Sabbath School gathering. Prof. Dr. Robertson, of Knox College had the principal address and his plea to the children presented with great earnestness was to love the church, and he reminded them a "church" was more than a building, and he drew comparisons between our churches and heathen, Jewish and Mohammedan temples. Just as man has an inner life not visible to the world so the church has a soul as well as a body. He urged looking upward and not being engrossed with material things. Men too often looked downward seeing the gloomy earth instead of the inspiring sky. He warned against misjudging the church and gave reasons why children should love it: it was the one institution that exists to make men better, it does good by providing a religious atmosphere, it provides a companionship, a place for doing good as well as getting good. He predicted there was going to be bad weather ahead of the church and wanted the children to be true.

Dr. Fletcher followed declaring himself an old boy yet. He had travelled in many countries but found none better than Canada. Children must not only help the church but God's cause everywhere. He made an eloquent plea for them to be kind to animals, and captured the children by some amusing experiences of his own. It was a bright little address, and fifty years from now some little one grown that much older may repeat how Dr. Fletcher treated the boy who was abusing the cat.

The pastor followed reminding the children they might have the privilege in 1939 of attending the centennial of the church when the present older heads would all be gone.

Sunday Evening Grand Spicely, Old Hundred was the opening psalm, and no anthem in the grandest cathedral could arouse more devout feelings than this fine old psalm, which is passing down the ages with undiminished vigor. Those who can look back 40 or 50 years would perhaps desire to sing it slower than is now wont, but fast or slow it is a fine well-reasoned exhortation to praise the Lord whose mercy is everlasting whose truth endureth to all generations.

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JAMES GUN, M. D.

Dr. Gun for many years was a living force in Durham Presbyterianism. He excelled as teacher in the Bible class, and in this capacity will be long remembered with gratitude. He was also a member of the Kirk session for a number of years.

every man, was a virtual promise of better things to come and through the line of promise God is reclaiming man, so it is important to be taught that "all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him, Amen."

Throughout the Bible promises tempt us on, Christ is the everlasting "Yea" of God. God carries everything sweet and lovely of the Old Testament to a head in Jesus, and the expression of a desire for our good was more forcible in a person, than in any other way.

Christ was the best asset humanity had for its future. His religion bound to become a world religion owing to its adaptation to men's needs. Christ is the unmistakable yea of God and through him also comes the "Amen," the assurance and the fulfillment of the promise.

He closed by a fervent personal appeal. Every one at some time must have forced upon him the question "Does God care for me," and the human spirit finds comfort in the thought that Christ, the God-man, is the Yea and Amen of the father unto us.

The church was again filled in the evening, a few from other churches fraternized. Revd's Kendall, Dromore, and McDonald, Dornoch, were present.

Monday Evening This was the crowning meeting of the series, strongly reminiscent in character and with inspiring addresses. From 6 to 8 there was a social tea and opportunity for conversation and re-unions among old and young. The weather was again favorable and no element was lacking to make success. After the abundance of the good things had been discussed, the ice cream, the strawberries, &c., adjournment was made upstairs, where in addition to

Dr. Farquharson, Chairman, there was Dr. Fletcher, and Reverends half a dozen strong: Moderator MacNamara of Saugeen Presbytery and Clerk Young of Clifford, Mackay of Harrison, Little of Holstein, Kendall of Dromore, Matheson of Preeceville.

The chairman thanked the people for the great interest shown, reminded them occasions like these were helpful only as they stirred up affection and love, they made old strictures look small, life had its sweet and bitter parts, but to-night all was pleasant. He made fitting reference to his deceased predecessors in the ministry in this town, and made equally warm mention of the only living one Rev. Robt. McNair. He rejoiced that Mrs. Park and daughter were still with us, always a friend to Ministers, the possessors of a kind and helpful spirit. He had received letters containing greetings and congratulations from Rev. John Smith, Rev. Jas. Binnie, who both sprung from the congregation, from Mr and Mrs Drysdale, Dr. A. S. Hunter. After paying compliments to the printers of the souvenir pamphlet, issued from the Review office, he called for music of which the choir had excellent store, and their contribution to the Jubilee was very material. Mr. Sinclair's Solo "Until the day breaks, &c." was much appreciated.

Moderator MacNamara conveyed to the congregation the greetings of Saugeen Presbytery, which was thankful for the work Durham was doing. He hoped the golden birthday of associations would well up as the past was reviewed, as the noble work of the pioneers in building schools, churches, character, was considered. Liberty came from their self-sacrifices. We can buy pictures, books, art of any kind, but not old associations.

Rev. Stephen Young, Clifford, a member of Saugeen Presbytery for 32 years and hence a contemporary of all Durham's ministers came next. He also brought greetings, but as he looked around on the roll of deaths of his contemporaries, well might we say "Our fathers, where are they?" He reviewed Mr. Park's career, at Quebec 6 mos. in 1857, for 6 mos. in township of Ramsay, assistant to Dr. Bayne of Galt and supplying Knox Church, Toronto for a time. He was often in Durham in early days when there was no railways, then now, change of bounds leaving Durham on the outskirts. He was in Presbytery when there was need to put oil on the waters, which separated for a time, but reunited again to flow in stronger volume than ever yet all in harmony. He then with minute fairness gave the roll of the dead and living ministers of the churches in the Presbytery, very striking indeed it was, and proving that "we all do fade as a leaf." He urged them to make their church the most harmonious place to live in next to their home and true progress was assured.

Dr. Fletcher was here 51 yrs. ago, when Durham was a little village on a hill. He too had known intimately all the Durham pastors. He related some characteristic features, some amusing, of Mr. Park as he knew him in his young days: one of the most cultured Christian gentlemen he ever knew. He travelled Europe with Mr. Forest. Mr. McNair had often seen in his congregation, and Mr. Jansen had been a resident of his city and he testified as to his faithfulness and generosity.

Mr. Farquharson had a good record as a student, was a thinker, and complimented him on a fine article on Calvin in last week's "Presbyterian," which highly cultured men had declared was exceptionally good. These references to the pastor called forth hearty applause from the audience. The genial Dr. said he would say more if the worthy pastor was in his study.

In a humorous vein he recalled early days and difficulties, sleeping in a strange bed with an umbrella over him to keep him dry! and other humorous incidents told so sweetly. He referred to the greatness of our country in an eloquent strain, his audience fairly captured and captivated. He warmed up still more as he referred to the call to another country which came to everyone to give their means to evangelize the world. A living church, he asserted needs money and the motive to work is found in a world needing evangelizing in this generation. The ruling passion should be love to Christ in order to be a fruitful worker: the fretful, fault-finding, pessimistic Christian can never do good. "Take your depressions to Jesus, he will remove them and give the felicities of life and we shall live in perpetual sunshine." The hearty applause that followed showed that the audience believed he had done just that thing, for no more sunny man ever spoke in Durham. The Choir's "Peace be within thy walls" came in most appropriately.

Rev. Mr. Newton conveyed the greetings of his church, and wished them continued progress. The work a living church did for the community could not be measured and he hoped with maternal progress they would continue building up souls for Christ.

The chairman made a sympathetic reference to Rev. Mr. Dies who had been there earlier in the evening, but had had to retire. Also to Rev. Mr. Jamieson, who was prevented by distractions of moving from being present.

Rev. Mr. Kendall of Dromore, followed in a very able address. He had had the pleasure in his boyhood of being a member of the Farquharson home. In that home, presided over by the father of the pastor there was a little church and Sunday School too. The character of the father was reflected in his sons: integrity, intelligence and industry. "We can't forget the great army that has passed away," and he too paid a tribute to the pioneers. Very earnestly though he reminded them that a church could not live on the traditions of the past, it must be advancing, we can't live in the past,

we can't live in the future though we can look to it, only the present is ours: to-day is the day of duty. He told a fine story to illustrate loyalty to the church, and hoped they ever would, as they came here to worship, find in it a Bethel for them and their children. Mr. Kendall paid deservedly warm tributes to Mrs. Farquharson in the course of his address.

The chairman called on Dr. Ed. Lander who had, with his wife, come from Cleveland to participate in the Jubilee. The Dr. admitted they had planned their holidays for this. Though under another flag he was loyal to Durham, and, like all her sons, he felt "once a Durhamite, always a Durhamite."

Rev. Mr. Little also had known all the pastors and bore his testimony to their faithfulness. He had experienced a real joy in being present. The next 50 yrs. was now in their hands. They must stand firm to the truth, be loyal to the man who presents the message, be true and kind one to the other, and your church in its influence will be a beacon on a hill. The audience would have liked more from Mr. Little, indeed from all, there wasn't a weak speech in the evening.

The chairman thanked Revd's MacKay and Matheson for their presence, regretting the limitation of time that prevented hearing them also. A vote of thanks to the visitors for the inspiration of their presence and inspiring words was heartily carried. The chairman expressed the great indebtedness to the choir for the successful effort they had made to fit the situation, and Rev. Dr. Fletcher moved thanks to the ladies for their essential part and this was heartily accorded. The choir sang "Gathering Home," the congregation sang "Pray that Jerusalem may have peace and felicity." Rev. Mr. Matheson pronounced the benediction and the observance of the first Jubilee of Durham congregation had passed into history.

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