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R. C. RODDIE.



James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P.,
Circuit Steward for about a quarter of
a century, from 1840.

The Thrush



HIGH and clear—like a bird—in a wood,
Sing of the things that are noble and good.

Up aloft in a purer air,
He sings of God's thoughts that surround him there.

We cannot tell the words of his song,
But it holds no hint of sorrow or wrong.

On this fine Spring day, in the leafless trees,
He looks at Heaven and sings as he sees,

And it isn't a challenge or mating call,
But a Hymn of Praise to the Giver of All.

In every one of the full, clear notes,
A joy beyond our expression floats . . .

Much more than the bird can understand—
He has caught the vibration from Heaven's far land,

And every note that we hear him sing
Is attuned to and echoes the voice of Spring,

While the theme is the same by the first birds sung
In a sinless Eden, when all was young.

High and clear—like a bird—in a wood,
Sing of the things that are noble and good.

F. M. WOLFE

G.B.S.—Good Boy!



In the issues of the "Irish Evangelist," forerunner of the "Christian Advocate," dated January 1866, July 1866, and August 1867, there appear lists of prize-winners in the Wesleyan Connexional School (now Wesley College), Dublin. A number of names well-known in West Cork appear: Wolfe (who was father of Mrs. F. M. Wolfe, Corner House, Skibbereen), Vance, Skuce, Jennings, Storey. Good conduct certificates were also awarded to these, and at two of these prize-givings to "G. B. Shaw." The certificated student can be no other than the world-famous George Bernard Shaw, whose wife is one of the notable West Cork family, the Townshends of Derry, Rosscarbery.

What a comfort it is to know that G.B.S.'s conduct was deemed "good" during at least part of two successive years! West Cork is proud of the man who is the Shakespeare of the present age.—Ed.

Skahannagh; Mr. William Thomas Bennett, Rineen; Mr. Matthew Kingston, Seaview.

Editor: Modesty prevents you from adding "Mr. Good, Rineen."

Mr. Good: At the opening service of the church the entire cost of building was paid off.

Editor: Union Hall seems to have had a number of very devoted families.

Mr. Good: Yes. Amongst the outstanding "pillars of the Church" were Mr. J. Kingston before-mentioned. So devoted was he that he opened his home for a monthly prayer meeting. Both he and Mrs. Kingston were greatly noted for their hospitality. (Like so many of the West Cork folk, and not least the Good family.—Ed.). The family tradition is splendidly carried on in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. William Kingston, Laragh, Bandon; Mr. and Mrs. James Kingston, Bayview, Carrigaline; and Mr. R. Kingston, of Canada, whose late respected wife was the daughter of Mr. William Wolfe, Schull. Miss Fanny Sweetnam, now Mrs. Bryan of Maryville, Enniskeane, also identified herself actively with all the Church life. In later years we rejoiced in the fact that in Union Hall we possessed one of the leading juvenile collectors in the British Isles, Miss Nancy Fuller. She is now the wife of our former Superintendent, the Rev. James Ritchie.

Editor: Rineen has always seemed to me to have an unusual attraction for a place so far away from any town, with its waterway for steamships, your pleasant residences, and your busy mill nearby.

Mr. Good: I have looked up the records and my deduction is that the corn-mill, now owned by my brother and myself, in which our sons also have responsible positions, has been operating for upwards of three hundred years.

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- 17—Be.
- 18—Bicentenary.
- 21—Ah.
- 22—Aha.
- 23—Agas.
- 25—Song.
- 26—Parish.
- 27—Method.
- 29—Oglethorpe.

DOWN.

- 1—Club.
- 2—Learning.
- 3—Susanna.
- 4—Epworth.
- 5—R.I.
- 6—V.L.
- 7—Wesley.
- 9—P.S.
- 10—I.A.
- 13—Ha.
- 16—Roe.
- 17—Brand.
- 18—Beau.
- 19—Chapel.
- 20—Nash.
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- 28—Up.

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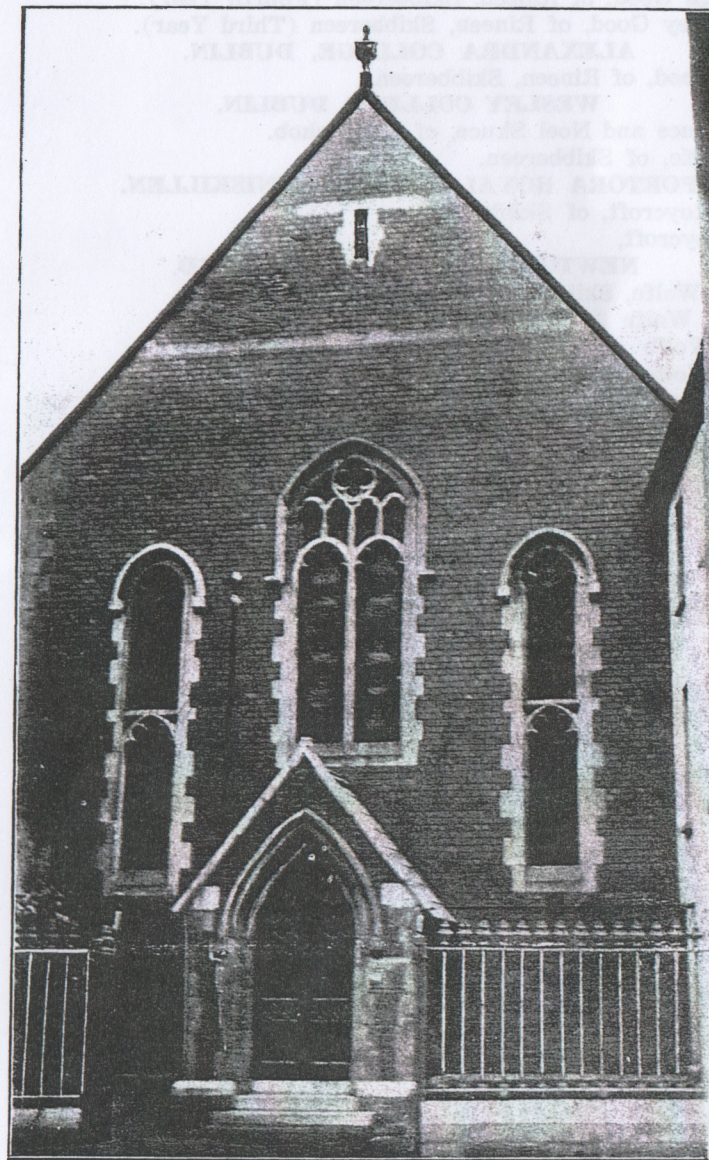
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Larry Roycroft, of Skibbereen.

Dick Roycroft,

NEWTOWN SCHOOL, WATERFORD.

Marion Wolfe, Skibbereen.

William Wolfe

Frank Wolfe

Elmer Wolfe

The above are distinguishing themselves scholastically and on the sports' field.

Heartiest congratulations to Jack Roycroft, of Ballydehob, on gaining fifth place in the Irish Free State in the recent Civil Service examination. Jack has secured a position in the P.O. (College Green Branch), Dublin.

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Skibbereen Church, 1938
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The late Rev. William Corrigan
The late Mr. James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P., Rineen
The late Mr. Robert S. Wolfe, Skibbereen



Foreword

BY

The President of the Methodist
Church in Ireland, 1937-38.



WEST CORK must be a source of pleasure to the artist and the poet. In it are some of the beauty spots of Eire, and from its shores are seen the wonderful cloud-colourings of marvellous sunsets. To the Methodist Preacher it is a delightful area. Throughout this interesting district the work of the Skibbereen Circuit has had a memorable past. Loyalty to the great Head of the Church and devotion to His service have been conspicuous in the lives of many who bore honoured names and now "rest from their labours." Their works follow them. The same spirit is found in West Cork to-day. In these critical times, which call for fearless courage and strong confidence in God, we are encouraged by the story of those former days when, without material wealth or social influence many glorious triumphs were achieved. Because our confidence is in God our Father and in Jesus Christ our Saviour and in the Holy Spirit we should face the future with hope. There is no mystery about the possession of Christian influence. We read that "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." To occupy mind and heart with the plain truths of God's revelation is Christ Jesus is to obtain spiritual power. He who has the mighty assurance, "The Lord is my God," is neither poor nor weak. Sin is here, and the power of sin is terrible, but "HE breaks the power of cancelled sin." When we yield ourselves to Him saying, "My God," HE responds with, "Thou are mine." However weak and timid we may be, realising His possession of us we shall become "strong and of good courage." May we be faithful followers of Him who said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

C. H. CROOKSHANK.

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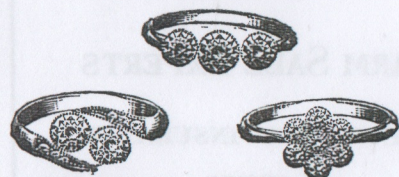
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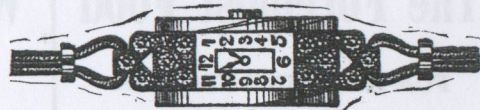
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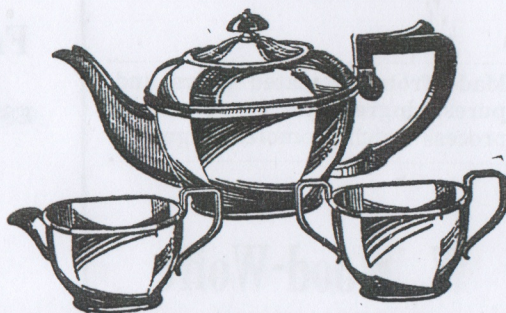


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EDITORIAL



THIS BOOKLET is primarily offered as a Bi-centenary Souvenir for the people of the Skibbereen circuit; but it has been compiled so as to be of interest and intelligible to a much wider circle of friends in Ireland and abroad. Accuracy, as far as possible, and variety, but not completeness, have been aimed at. Since the editor is a comparative stranger to the locality he cannot accept responsibility for flagrant errors or omissions. The purely local part of the material was, for the most part, gathered together by a willing band of contributors. These friends were dependent either on memory or on comparatively scanty records. If, therefore, some matters of interest, or names worthy of special mention, have been omitted, we can only claim the indulgence of understanding friendship.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to a very large number of friends, notably those whose names appear in the Table of Contents, who provided valuable information. "Primus inter pares" is Mr. T. J. Bennett of Shannonvale, Clonakilty. Valuable research work was also done by Mrs. W. A. Wolfe, and proof-reading by Mrs. Cullen and Mr. William Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe also kindly presented the block for the photograph of Skibbereen Church. As we go to press a contribution has arrived from Rev. R. Lee Cole, M.A., B.D., in the form of a List of Ministers from 1798-1938. This is a duplicate of one already provided by Rev. W. R. Budd and Mr. T. J. Bennett. We are grateful to Mr. Cole for his kindly interest in our little publication. The editor wishes to thank all advertisers and those who subscribed towards the cost of production; and the Manager and Staff of the "Southern Star" for their courtesy, helpful advice, and excellent workmanship. We owe a debt of gratitude also to Mr. A. M. Fullerton, O.B.E., Secretary of the Bi-centenary Committee, who secured for us the loan of the bi-centenary stamp. The stamp is taken from a photograph of the Wesleys' Monument in the Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey.

It is a happy coincidence that on the two circuits contiguous to Skibbereen, Bantry and Dunmanway, which have been closely associated with our history, the present superintendents, Rev. B. C. Moran (Bantry) and Rev. R. A. Parkhill (Dunmanway), are sons of ministers who laboured on this circuit. Mr. Moran was a local preacher in Skibbereen before entering the ministry.

For further information about this historic circuit readers should see Dr. Crookshank's "History of Irish Methodism"; "Reminiscences of Skibbereen," written by Dr. W. E. Hadden, and published serially in 1937 issues of the "Irish Christian Advocate"; and articles in the 1897 and 1933 "Advocates" by the late Rev. William Corrigan and Rev. James Ritchie.

Encouraged by the records of the past, may we be endowed with our fathers' Christian experience, and strong spirit of endeavour, so that the coming days shall be equally rich in loving labour for our Master and Lord.

W. E. CULLEN.

The Beginnings



ONE AUTUMN DAY in 1779 John Bredin, the Methodist Preacher at that time stationed in Cork City, rode into the principal street of Skibbereen. He probably came down High Street, which was then the main Cork road by Clonakilty. The journey had taken him several days.

He knew nobody in the town; but, on the authority of his Message, he sent to the magistrate for the Court House key, announcing the fact that he intended to hold a service. The sending for and getting the Court House key, and holding the first Methodist service under the sanction of the "powers that be," was very different to the usual custom of open-air preaching, but was characteristic of early Skibbereen Methodism.

In other towns the preachers were subject to attack, or at best ignored by those in authority. Even John Wesley suffered these things in Cork and Bandon on occasions.

There is no instance of opposition by Church or State in Skibbereen district. On the contrary, the local Town Hall was lent for the fortnightly services, and for nearly twenty years this was the Methodist meeting place in Skibbereen town.

In their capacity of evangelists within the Established Church, the preachers were well received by all the local rectors. Indeed, one pressed John Hamilton to visit his parish and to conduct, what we now call, a mission.

On another occasion when a preacher, as was the custom, was visiting a parish church for morning service, the rector conducted him to the reading desk, and requested him to preach, a task that was gladly complied with. As a result regular services were arranged in that parish.

Yet, though they were so well received and had good congregations in Skibbereen, the results of the preaching were very poor. Twenty years after the first service, there were only forty-eight members in a district that covered all West Cork.

The first Methodist home on the circuit was at Ardrally, that of Captain Evans, and even here it was his Methodist wife from Bandon, not the preacher's eloquence, who was the means of introducing the "cause." But the opening once made, the preachers used it to reach the western parts of the district.

About this time, 1783, the home of the Swantons at Gortnagrough became a Methodist preacher's stopping place. The first class was started in Skibbereen town as the result of special services in 1797; George Levis was the first leader, and his home the preacher's headquarters.

In 1798 it was decided by Conference that it was necessary to have a resident minister in the district, as the occasional visits of the Bandon preachers showed little lasting results.

The first resident preacher was John Hamilton. Next year, (1799), he was joined by Henry Deery. Between them a great district was covered, and as a result, Bantry, Ballydehob, Lissacaha and Schull appeared on the Methodist map. The

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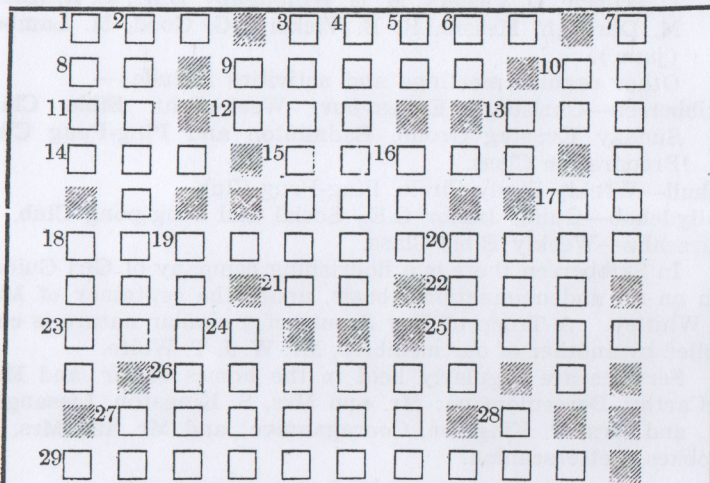
Marriage Bells

A note has been inserted elsewhere of the recent marriage of Mr. Noel Fuller, Union Hall, to Miss Martha Jennings, Benduff. We wish the bride and bridegroom every happiness, and heartily welcome Mrs. Noel Fuller to the circuit.

News has just been received of the forthcoming marriage of Mr. Morgan Wesley Lambert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Lambert, of Rea, to Miss Avesia Vickery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Vickery, of Bay View, Bantry. We congratulate Mr. Lambert and wish him and his bride-to-be much happiness.

Another happy couple, friends of our Cause, have lately been married. This notable year, therefore, promises to give us at least three "bi-centenary weddings"!

WESLEY CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS.

- 1—Common Law Reports*.
- 3—His Aim.
- 8—French for "the."
- 9—He taught this.
- 10—That is*.
- 11—Among others*.
- 12—Compass point*.
- 13—Possesses.
- 14—Brother*.
- 15—Chief Artery.
- 17—Exist.
- 18—This year.
- 21 & 22—Exclamations.
- 23—Turkish Officers.
- 25—His Pleasure.
- 26—A District.
- 27—Order.
- 29—A General.

DOWN.

- 1—One of his organisations.
- 2—Knowledge.
- 3—His mother's name.
- 4—His Home.
- 5—Royal Institution*.
- 6—A Variant Reading*.
- 7—His Name.
- 9—Postscript*.
- 10—By Order*.
- 13—Exclamation.
- 16—Eggs.
- 17—What he called himself.
- 18—Part of a name.
- 19—A Preaching Place.
- 20—Finish of 18.
- 24—To Satisfy.
- 27—Magnesium*.
- 28—Not Down.

*An Abbreviation.

Solution will be found on inside back cover.

work grew by leaps and bounds. In 1799 the membership had risen to 160; the next year the number was 300, and by 1810 it had reached 320. God was using His servants.

This great increase of members in the Methodist societies necessitated the arranging for places of worship. While most of the services were held in private houses, at least three chapels were built at this period.

The first, in 1802, was in Skibbereen (not in Aughdown, as is usually stated); the church on Captain Evans' ground was built in 1803; and the third at Bantry in 1804. The early churches were replaced by new buildings, both in Skibbereen and Bantry, in 1821. About this time chapels were also built at Ballydehob and Schull (both about 1825), Four-mile-water (Durrus) 1828, and Lissacaha 1830.

Where are these buildings to-day? Aughdown fell into disuse in the 1860's, and became a complete ruin. The present church was opened on October 28, 1877, on a different site. Lissacaha was used until the erection of the new church in 1930; the old building is still standing, but is not now used for any religious purpose. Ballydehob has ceased to be used as a church since the new one was built in 1891, but it is in good repair and is the centre for the social life of the congregation. The old Schull church was taken down in 1882, and a new one built on the same site. (Bantry and Durrus were separated from the Skibbereen circuit in 1883.)

The Skibbereen churches were more difficult to locate. It is thought that the 1802 church was on the Quay, in a building now used as a store by Mr. W. Wood-Wolfe, and that the 1821 church was probably on the same site as the present church.

In 1816, and in the following years, there was a most disastrous dispute over the administration of the Sacrament. The majority of the Methodists of the Skibbereen circuit followed the ruling of Conference and stood by the preachers.

In 1821 a public meeting was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of erecting a church for the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists, as the seceders called themselves. As the result a chapel was built in North Street. The premises are now the garage of Mr. W. G. Wood. After this, for nearly twenty years, there was the strange spectacle of two Methodist churches in Skibbereen, each with its own resident minister.

In 1828 there was a revival in the Primitive Society. Congregations greatly increased, and the chapel had to be enlarged to twice its original size to hold the worshippers.

In 1833 a similar gracious experience was felt among the Wesleyans, as the followers of the Conference were called. This also resulted in a shortage of accommodation, and a new church was built, which, except for some alterations made in 1860 and 1897, is the building now in use.

Two other occurrences call for mention. Between 1830 and 1832 a terrible scourge of cholera swept over the country and thousands died. West Cork was badly affected. Skibbereen suffered much, and among the many victims two of the leaders of the Wesleyan Society received a sudden "Home Call."

Hardly had the country recovered from the cholera, when the famine years of 1846 to 1848 destroyed the returning prosperity. Ireland suffered badly, but West Cork most of all. Yet, with all the disasters, the membership of the Methodist Society in 1849 was 272.

It is not my job to tell of the evangelists who sowed the seed, the Ministers who tended it, and the men and women who by their saintly and self-sacrificing lives built up the cause—others tell that tale—but let me say, in conclusion, that the God who led our fathers through strife, pestilence and famine still LIVES.

T. J. BENNETT.

Wesley and Our Bi-Centenary

"It is prodigious the amount of good that may be done by one man if he will make a business of it."—Johnson.

IT may be said that John Wesley had been making a business of doing good from his earliest days. From the age of 22 he had been most diligent and methodical in its transaction. In Oxford he had lived an ascetic and philanthropic life. In Georgia he sought to build up his fellow-countrymen in their faith and to convert the heathen Indians. Though he was consistent and conscientious in his religion, he was not particularly happy. His sense of dissatisfaction and failure was intensified by his contacts with the Moravians, who possessed the dynamic and inner harmony for which he longed. Disillusioned and depressed, he returned to England. He felt he had no gospel to preach, but when he confided this to a Moravian friend he advised him: "Preach faith till you have it, and then because you have it you will preach faith."

Wesley now realized that he was missing the glad tidings of Jesus Christ: that God gives the graces of life not to those who seek by their activity to merit them, but to those who with the humility and gratitude of a child receive them. Placing himself in God's way, he soon was given the gracious gift of God. On the evening of Wednesday, 24th May, 1738, John Wesley, now in his 35th year, gained a new religious experience. (A fuller description of that memorable evening is given in our article, "John Wesley Listens."—Ed.) From that day, doing good was his consuming passion. It was no longer his business, but God's business; he was not merely a servant of God, but a son who had to be about His Father's business. For fifty-three years, by written and spoken word, by his life and work, he proclaimed to a world which had grown cold and callous with Materialism and Formalism, the warmth and universality of the Love of God.

With his brother Charles, to whom the forgiveness and power of God had come on Sunday, 21st May, 1738, with others

SUNDAY SCHOOL, SKIBBEREEN.

Superintendent—Mr. W. Wolfe.

Secretary—Mr. H. Wolfe (junr.).

Teachers—Miss V. Correll, Miss E. G. Wolfe, Mr. M. Lambert.

Bible Class Leader—Mrs. N. R. Haskins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, BALLYDEHOB.

Superintendent—Mrs. Skuce.

HONORARY ORGANISTS.

Skibbereen—Mrs. J. T. Wolfe, Mrs. R. Hosford, the Misses V. Correll, A.R.C.M., N. Trinder, C. Scorgie.

Schull and Lissacaha—Mrs. Cowen, Mrs. R. C. Roddie, Mrs. Scorgie.

Ballydehob—Miss M. Roycroft.

Union Hall—The Misses E. and D. Good.

SOLOISTS AND CHOIR MEMBERS.

Mrs. J. T. Wolfe, Mrs. H. Whitley, Mrs. V. G. Power, Mrs. A. Wolfe, Mrs. W. E. Cullen, the Misses E. G. Wolfe, N. Trinder, C. Scorgie, D. Vickery, M. E. Willoughby, B.A.; E. Kingston, M. Darragh, Messrs. R. B. Vickery, G. Good, M. Lambert (junr.).

Other regular meetings and activities include:—

Skibbereen—Christian Endeavour, Week-night Bible Class, Sunday Evening Group, Badminton and Ping-Pong Club, Preparation Class.

Schull—Weekly Study Circle, Ping-Pong Club.

Ballydehob—Guild, Junior C.E., Social and Ping-pong Club.

Lissacaha—Weekly Bible Class.

In Skibbereen there is a flourishing company of Girl Guides, run on an undenominational basis, under the captaincy of Mrs. H. Whitley. A Troop of Boy Scouts of a similar nature is controlled by another of our members, Mr. W. J. T. Wolfe.

Services are regularly held in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, Dereenlomane; Mr. and Mrs. S. Kingston, Lissangle; Mr. and Mrs. P. Kingston, Cooragannive; and Mr. and Mrs. R. Brookes, Letterscanlon.

Recent Births and Marriages

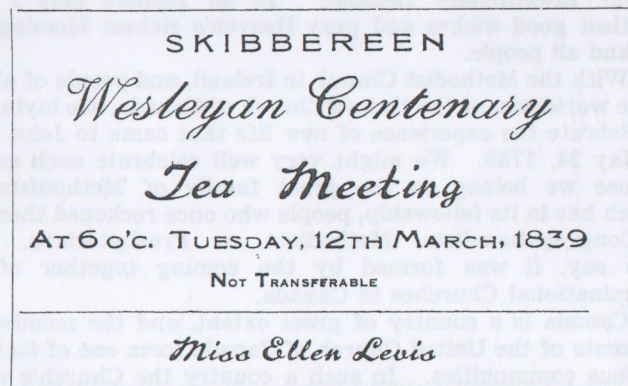
BIRTHS:

- On 24th July, 1936, at Seaview, Ballydehob, to Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Roycroft—a daughter (Annie Irene).
- On 19th April, 1937, at Cassivina, Ballydehob, to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dungan—a daughter (Annie Bryan).
- On 1st December, 1937, at Fort Cottage, Skibbereen, to Mr. and Mrs. E. Brookes—a son (John Richard).

MARRIAGES:

- On 15th September, 1936, at Dunmanway, by Rev. J. R. W. Roddie and Rev. S. J. Johnston: Rev. R. C. Roddie, M.A. (Superintendent of Skibbereen Circuit), to Lorna K. L., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Atkins, Dunmanway.
- On 28th October, 1936, at Union Hall, by Rev. James Ritchie: John Sterling Kingston to Edith Mabel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fuller, Union Hall.
- On February 16th, 1938, at Ballinamallard, by Rev. James Ritchie: Noel Fuller to Martha Jennings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, Benduff, Leap.

The following copy of an invitation card has interest for us in this bi-centenary year, and the more so in that the name of the invitee is Miss Ellen Levis (afterwards Mrs. Hadden), who became the mother of Dr. W. E. Hadden. Dr. Hadden's valuable contribution to this booklet appears on another page.



NOTE.—1938, as being the 200th year after Wesley's notable religious experience, has been chosen as the Methodist Bi-centenary year. But, as shewn above, our ancestors celebrated their centenary in 1839, which was the 100th year after the founding of the first Methodist society.

Officials and Activities 1937-38

Ministers—Rev. R. C. Roddie, M.A., Schull (Superintendent);
Rev. W. E. Cullen, B.A., Skibbereen.
Circuit Stewards—Mr. W. Wolfe, Miss A. E. Connell.
Society Stewards—Mrs. Cocks, Schull; Mr. Sam Roycroft, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Roycroft, Ballydehob; Mr. R. B. Vickery, Skibbereen; Mr. J. Trinder, do.
Circuit Accountant and Legal Adviser—Mr. Jasper T. Wolfe.
Secretary of Leaders' and Trustees' Board—Mr. Ben. Good.
Assistant Secretary and C. E. Secretary—Mr. G. Good.
Women's Department Missionary Secretary—Mrs. V. G. Power.
Poor Steward—Miss C. Scorgie.
Overseas' Missions Secretary—Mr. H. Wolfe, junr.
Supernumerary Fund Secretary—Mr. M. Lambert, junr.
Leaders and Trustees—(the above-named, together with) Mrs. N. R. Haskins, Mrs. J. T. Wolfe, Mr. J. T. Wolfe, Mr. S. and Mr. R. Hunt, Mr. R. Dungan, Mr. Robert Good, Mr. H. Whitley, Mr. W. A. Wolfe, Mr. R. Brookes, Mr. F. Brookes, Mr. H. Wolfe (senr.), Mr. N. Roycroft, Mr. Noel Fuller.
Local Preachers—Mr. W. Wolfe, Mr. Ben Good, Mr. R. Dungan; Mr. H. Wolfe (junr.), Mr. W. Wolfe (junr.), Mr. R. Draper (unofficial).

whose hearts had been similarly warmed, he was in God's hands the means of starting a movement which revived Christianity, stimulated the work of evangelising the heathen, gave a tremendous impetus to social and philanthropic activity, and made the Christian promise of triumphant living real to many millions of men and women.

In May we think of the secret of Wesley's prodigious amount of good.

On Sunday, 22nd May, addresses will be given in thousands of Churches and Sunday Schools. On Tuesday morning, 24th May, special prayers will be used in thousands of homes, and on that evening, from 8 to 9 o'clock, services of commemoration will be held in Methodist Churches in many parts of the world, and a Methodist broadcast will be given from Radio Athlone.

Wesley's Mother Church will remember his evangelical experience when, on Wednesday 25th, the Archbishop of Canterbury preaches at a great service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

While we look back with thankfulness to May, 1738, we cannot help looking into our own hearts and out upon the Church and the world. Within and without there is need, need of strength and peace and joy and love. The unchanging Christ is our only hope. He can forgive and revitalise each of us. And that intimate experience will inevitably express itself in Religious Revival and Social Reconstruction.

FRANCIS KELLETT.

Providence

WE may not see Thy pillared cloud
Before us as our shield and guide,
Nor hear Thy trumpet calling loud
Thy presence from the mountain-side.

But we preserve Thine edicts still.
We thank Thee for direction clear;
And, daily, strive to do Thy will,
And, hourly, feel that Thou art near.

Who for the murmuring multitude
At Marah healedst the bitter spring,
Who didst supply with angels' food
Canst furnish each material thing.

F. M. WOLFE

Excerpts from the Unpublished Diary of Rev. John Rogers

ON JULY 20th, 1803, a young Methodist preacher, John Rogers, set out from Gorey on horseback to travel to Skibbereen, where he was appointed "to labour with James Stuart."

On July 28th he arrived at Skibbereen, where he was "received with affection by our Scibbereen friends." He began work at once, for he preached the following morning and "breakfasted at Bro. Atkins' in company with Mr. Stuart." Then he, with Bro. William and Sister Susan Atkins (a), went to Bro. John Evans (b), where he was "received with much affection and love by that dear family"—presumably at Ardrally. Mr. Stuart preached here, where they met Rev. Henry Webb. They "held a prayer meeting and it was a time of Heavenly refreshing coming from the presence of the Lord."

July 29th: "Parted with Mr. Stuart and went forward to the northern part of the circuit. Dined at Bro. Wm. Young's, Letterscanlon (c); went forward with Bro. Roger Young to Bro. Cole's of Dromore."

30th: "Set forth to Caherincrin to Bro. Thos. Kingston's, a very contrary road. My mare fell under me twice on a rock. I had to throw myself off." He preached here, and next day in Bantry, going to James Vickery of Rusca, where he preached again. But at Dunbittern, at William Vickery's, "there were no people to hear." After preaching twice and spending the night at John Skuce's, he "came to Bro. Richard Allin's at Ballyriggadd through many rocks and to Rich. Roycroft's of Kilpatrick," preaching at both houses. "The roads here are very full of rocks and very narrow. This country is very mountainous." He preached again at Gubbeen, where he stayed at a poor house. He said: "I slept but little and almost could wish I had been at home. I was also sick in my stomach (it was nothing here, morning or evening, but potatoes for food)." Nevertheless, he preached there again to a full house and met a class of over twenty, declaring he "had a good time." Diary again.

He "came to Schull and preached to a large congregation and was received friendly by Bro. Milvin." He went on to Bro. English, preaching again there, though he complained of a "pain in his left breast. But he took leave of this affectionate family," and went on to Bro. Swanton's of Ballydehob, where he was "received with love," preaching here and at "Widow Swanton's," the following day.

Note: Proceeding to John Evans', he preached there to a large company. Two days later he preached twice at a "wake-house" in the same locality. Between July 19 and August 17 he preached on thirty-one occasions. After the funeral he

Greetings From Canada

IT is a privilege and an honour to send greetings to you through your Bi-centenary Booklet. To all readers may I extend heartiest good wishes and pray Heaven's richest blessings upon you and all people.

With the Methodist Church in Ireland, and people of all parts of the world, we, of the United Church of Canada, are laying plans to celebrate the experience of new life that came to John Wesley on May 24, 1738. We might very well celebrate such an event because we belong to the great family of Methodists. Our Church has in its fellowship, people who once reckoned themselves as Congregationalists, Methodists, or Presbyterians. That is to say, it was formed by the coming together of three denominational Churches in Canada.

Canada is a country of great extent, and the members and adherents of the United Church of Canada form one of its largest religious communities. In such a country the Church's work is scattered because of great distances, and varied because of the different ways of making a living. In our cities, Church life is not greatly different from that experienced in any of the great cities of the world. In contrast, there are newer areas of our country in which, as yet, no Church building is to be found. It is of these one could write at greatest length. How would you like to go as a minister into such a community; gather a few Christian people around you; live with them, work with them, pray with them, build life with them, and a house for the worship and service of God? This is the call of the United Church of Canada and the best are needed to answer it. Continually people are pushing into new areas as the country develops; new mining towns are being built in the North country; new agricultural areas opening up in the West; new living and industrial areas in our cities. Our task is a great one—that of meeting the religious needs of the people. It was this that drew us together as Churches. We discovered, as perhaps others will also, that our work demanded all the strength that could be had and that really we should be doing the same task—that of bringing men and women to a knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

During vacation periods from College it was my privilege to have a share in the adventure-work of our Church. As an ordained minister in a well-settled community my lot is somewhat different. Here a firm foundation has long been laid. About ninety-five per cent. of the people are of Scottish descent. Among them the minister, whoever he may be, has a large place in their affection, and the services of the sanctuary are very sacred to them.

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love,
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above."

PERCY LAMBERT.

horses tethered to the trees, bicycles standing against the wall; races; and the prizes distributed to everyone regardless of success or failure. "Lough Ine" and the S.S. picnic were synonymous.

Alas! those care-free days are over and Time has brought many changes. Life in a city and in a big centre of Methodism is naturally very different, though equally interesting. Surrounded as we are in Edgehill College by beautiful trees and winding paths, and the song of birds, it is easy to imagine oneself still in the country. Yet a ten minutes' tram ride and one is in the midst of a busy city! Methodist Churches abound, and an old friend may be heard preach wherever one goes. It is a pleasure to meet ministers and others who once were part of the home life, and who have happy memories of one's home and parents. It is a surprise to find oneself remembered by Rev. John O. Park, B.A., D.D., who, years before, came to examine our day school, and to find him so little changed after, I daren't even to myself say, how many years. Then one comes across other familiar faces now and again. The President, Rev. C. H. Crookshank; Rev. J. D. Foster, M.A.; Rev. W. J. Robinson, B.A.; Rev. W. L. Northridge, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., and many others, all of whom are associated in my memory with the "good old days" in Skibbereen.

M. J. ROYCROFT.

Bi-Centenary Travel

If Wesley could come back again,
His horse would have a rest,
For Jackie now could go by train,
If he should think it best.

II.

Perhaps a bike would be his choice,
When he could pedal fast,
O'er lane and field we'd hear his voice,
As he went swiftly past.

III.

A motor car he could employ,
To rush from town to town,
With smell and dust he could destroy
Sweet nature's lovely gown.

IV.

If he had had an aeroplane,
The whole wide world to serve,
Would he still have his famous name,
Or lost it—and his nerve?

preached at Mrs. Moore's, of New Court, and next day at Glandore at the house of Mr. Wright.

Passing over these entries of numerous preaching services, we find he "preached in the street in Bantry to some hundreds. They heard with attention." He also mentions preaching in Castle Townshend and Glandore in company with the Bandon minister.

Diary: "Received a kind letter from my dear Mr. Lanktree advising me to be mighty in the Scriptures and a man of prayer, that God may enable me to speak in his holy Name all the words of this life."

1804, March 2: "I went this day to Crookhaven and asked liberty of Mr. Tisdall, who is minister, magistrate and captain of a corps of yeomen there. The Lord favoured me and gave me favour in his sight, so that I dined with him and received liberty to preach this night and the following morning. He formerly took Mr. Deery a prisoner for going there to preach.

John Rogers' last entry in Skibbereen was "June 21st (1804)." We held our last quarterly meeting for this year at Ardrally. 23rd: Took my leave of my dear Skibbereen friends. They were much affected. May God the good Shepherd of Israel keep them and bless them with every purchased blessing. I have reason to bless God that ever I was sent to that circuit. The dear people loved me much and I feel much united to them. It has been a year of much blessing to my soul and my labour was not in vain."

The Diary goes on to say that he rode home to Gorey in seven days, preaching each night on the way.

"1810, April 6th: I was married to Mary Croston of Crookhaven in Crookhaven Church, Co. Cork."

"May 10th, 1821: A quarter before 10 o'clock this day the Lord took my dear, faithful and affectionate wife from me to glory. . . I have read of triumphant deaths, but never witnessed anything like hers. 'If this be dying,' said she, 'it is glorious work.' 'I'll praise my Maker while I've breath, etc.' 'I feel the love of God and all my trust is in the merits of my dear Redeemer.' She said to me: 'My dear, when I see you coming to glory, then I will throw my arms round you and welcome you there.'" . . . She died in the town of Tralee at the house of John Swindell, where we lodged.

(a) The descendants of William and Susan Atkins were probably connected with the Hadden family by marriage.

(b) Bro. John Evans was probably the grandfather of Dr. David Hadden, senr.

(c) William Young, Letterscanlon, grandfather of William Young, the well-known preacher.

M. E. HASKINS.

Skibbereen's Gifts to Irish Methodism

I HAVE been asked to write very briefly on the subject of "Skibbereen's Contribution to Irish Methodism." I suppose no one Skibbereen man did more for Irish Methodism last century than Mr. James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P., known as "Governor Swanton"; next to him I would place Mr. S. W. Levis of the Corner House, whose Class at 8 o'clock on Sunday mornings I used to attend sixty-five years ago.

I can recall to mind only two "natives" who entered the Irish Methodist Ministry—the Rev. William Swanton, son of Governor Swanton, on whose Memorial Tablet in the Church is the text "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever." The other is the Rev. Nicholas J. Warner, who, after a few years in our Ministry, joined the Church of England. Two of our well-known ministers whose names are usually associated with Skibbereen were not "natives," but they received their spiritual inspiration and business training in the town while residing at the Corner House. I refer to the late Rev. W. Y. Northridge, and the Rev. P. Ernest Donovan, who happily is still with us. Mr. Northridge, a most lovable man, excelling as a pastor in every circuit where he was stationed, was born in Ballineen, but his mother came from the Skibbereen district. (I knew his grandmother well, Mrs. Young of New Court.) Even if he had done no other work for Irish Methodism, the splendid schools he was the means of erecting in Portadown remain as an enduring memorial. Mr. Donovan is a native of Myross near Leap; his great work for Irish Methodism as General Missionary, Lecturer and Superintendent of Colportage is well known to all. At the Portadown Circuit Centenary celebrations held recently, one of our most devoted members, a local preacher, whose forte is Sunday School work, stated that he owed his conversion to Mr. Donovan—but this is only one of very many such.

But what of the contribution to Irish Methodism of the Skibbereen wives of some of our well known ministers—the Rev. John D. Powell, the Rev. W. A. Bracken, the Rev. H. Frackleton, and the Rev. N. R. Haskins, M.A.—what of their influence in the many circuits to which their husbands were appointed?

I would like also to mention the good work for Irish Methodism being done by the Rev. R. R. Sayers, B.A., and the Rev. Frank Bennett, B.A., whose mothers came from Skibbereen.

And I would not like to omit the name of the Rev. R. Lee Cole, M.A., B.D., whose father, the Rev. Richard Cole, came from Durrus near Bantry, but resided in Skibbereen for some time, and whose grandfather, Mr. Richard Lee, practised as an architect in Skibbereen. I have confined my remarks to the town itself. In my early days Bantry and Schull and Ballydehob were on the Skibbereen circuit; others may mention the work done in these districts for Irish Methodism by the men and women who lived at a distance from the town.

Childhood Days

IN the less sophisticated days of my childhood so many of our interests were connected with the life of the Church! One wonders if that can be said in the same degree of the youthful Methodists of to-day. The thrill remains with me still of getting up in the dark on Christmas morning and going out to Church at 7 a.m., with the gas-lamps lighting in the streets. The singing of the Christmas hymns and carols produced a feeling of exhilaration which nothing has quite equalled since. The collecting cards were given out soon after Christmas. How well I remember the hectic excitement of that first Monday morning when shillings and sixpences flowed in so freely—so different from the lethargic tuppences which were so hard to come by later! The Tea-meeting, of course, was the culmination of our collecting activities. Night of nights! New frocks, faces shining with soap and happiness; recitations and songs on tip of tongue; collecting and Sunday School prizes, and cake galore!

Leaders' Meeting day was another one of the high spots in the calendar. The presence of one or more of the ministers and some of the Leaders for dinner at my home invested the day with a peculiar sanctity of its own. "There were giants in those days." A Leader was a man of considerable dignity to us children. To my youthful imagination a Leaders' Meeting was like a solemn conclave of the prophets and priests of Israel, the latter being the Skibbereen circuit, which seemed to me then to be quite a slice of John Wesley's "parish"—the world—when measured by the standards of the Skibbereen and Schull Light Railway and "Jack the Mail Car." The Skibbereen circuit used to be spoken of as the one "next America." Goleen, the outpost in the Far West, was almost as remote as Timbuctoo. The Leaders came from all points of the compass. Mr. John Kingston from Skahannagh, Mr. Robert Good from Rineen, Mr. R. S. Wolfe, Mr. James S. Wolfe, Mr. John Wolfe, and my father, Mr. G. W. Johnson, represented "the metropolis." Then from the West came Mr. William Wolfe of Schull and Mr. Robert Wolfe from Ballydehob—all of whom have now passed on. In those days each 'pater familias' was almost invariably a greybeard, at least that is my recollection now looking back. I am quite sure that if, with the advent of the safety razor, the present generation of Ministers and Leaders no longer present a patriarchal appearance their deliberation are none the less weighty. Home and Foreign Missionary Meetings, particularly Foreign, were eagerly anticipated. With whom is the Deputation going to stay? What is he like? Where does he come from? And all the delightful associations of the Sunday School picnic—the two-horse wagonette, the donkey-cart despatched ahead with the coal for the fire and the provisions; boiling the kettle in the open; fetching the water from the well; boating; climbing the hill; the

horses tethered to the trees, bicycles standing against the wall; races; and the prizes distributed to everyone regardless of success or failure. "Lough Ine" and the S.S. picnic were synonymous.

Alas! those care-free days are over and Time has brought many changes. Life in a city and in a big centre of Methodism is naturally very different, though equally interesting. Surrounded as we are in Edgehill College by beautiful trees and winding paths, and the song of birds, it is easy to imagine oneself still in the country. Yet a ten minutes's tram ride and one is in the midst of a busy city! Methodist Churches abound, and an old friend may be heard preach wherever one goes. It is a pleasure to meet ministers and others who once were part of the home life, and who have happy memories of one's home and parents. It is a surprise to find oneself remembered by Rev. John O. Park, B.A., D.D., who, years before, came to examine our day school, and to find him so little changed after, I daren't even to myself say, how many years. Then one comes across other familiar faces now and again. The President, Rev. C. H. Crookshank; Rev. J. D. Foster, M.A.; Rev. W. J. Robinson, B.A.; Rev. W. L. Northridge, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., and many others, all of whom are associated in my memory with the "good old days" in Skibbereen.

M. J. ROYCROFT.

Bi-Centenary Travel

If Wesley could come back again,
His horse would have a rest,
For Jackie now could go by train,
If he should think it best.

II.

Perhaps a bike would be his choice,
When he could pedal fast,
O'er lane and field we'd hear his voice,
As he went swiftly past.

III.

A motor car he could employ,
To rush from town to town,
With smell and dust he could destroy
Sweet nature's lovely gown.

IV.

If he had had an aeroplane,
The whole wide world to serve,
Would he still have his famous name,
Or lost it—and his nerve?

preached at Mrs. Moore's, of New Court, and next day at Glandore at the house of Mr. Wright.

Passing over these entries of numerous preaching services, we find he "preached in the street in Bantry to some hundreds. They heard with attention." He also mentions preaching in Castle Townshend and Glandore in company with the Bandon minister.

Diary: "Received a kind letter from my dear Mr. Lanktree advising me to be mighty in the Scriptures and a man of prayer, that God may enable me to speak in his holy Name all the words of this life."

1804, March 2: "I went this day to Crookhaven and asked liberty of Mr. Tisdall, who is minister, magistrate and captain of a corps of yeomen there. The Lord favoured me and gave me favour in his sight, so that I dined with him and received liberty to preach this night and the following morning. He formerly took Mr. Deery a prisoner for going there to preach.

John Rogers' last entry in Skibbereen was "June 21st (1804)." We held our last quarterly meeting for this year at Ardrally. 23rd: Took my leave of my dear Skibbereen friends. They were much affected. May God the good Shepherd of Israel keep them and bless them with every purchased blessing. I have reason to bless God that ever I was sent to that circuit. The dear people loved me much and I feel much united to them. It has been a year of much blessing to my soul and my labour was not in vain."

The Diary goes on to say that he rode home to Gorey in seven days, preaching each night on the way.

"**1810, April 6th:** I was married to Mary Croston of Crookhaven in Crookhaven Church, Co. Cork."

"**May 10th, 1821:** A quarter before 10 o'clock this day the Lord took my dear, faithful and affectionate wife from me to glory. . . I have read of triumphant deaths, but never witnessed anything like hers. 'If this be dying,' said she, 'it is glorious work.' 'I'll praise my Maker while I've breath, etc.' 'I feel the love of God and all my trust is in the merits of my dear Redeemer.' She said to me: 'My dear, when I see you coming to glory, then I will throw my arms round you and welcome you there.'" . . . She died in the town of Tralee at the house of John Swindell, where we lodged.

(a) The descendants of William and Susan Atkins were probably connected with the Hadden family by marriage.

(b) Bro. John Evans was probably the grandfather of Dr. David Hadden, senr.

(c) William Young, Letterscanlon, grandfather of William Young, the well-known preacher.

M. E. HASKINS.

more important. One of your ministers, Rev. W. E. Cullen, B.A., was a student of mine. Like most healthy-minded students, he was, at times, a bit of a playboy. But he had then, as still, a conscientiousness and keenness of mind refreshing to those who are brought into contact with him. I need only add my best wishes and prayers for him and the circuit. May the future, for Skibbereen Methodism, be even richer in blessing than the past!

W. L. NORTHRIDGE.

Rev. Dr. Northridge, in addition to being tutor in our Theological College, and co-editor of the "Irish Christian Advocate," is our foremost psychologist and the author of important treatises on psychology and religion, including "Modern Theories of the Unconscious" and "The Old Testament To-day."

Our Missionary

Amongst those from this circuit whom we most delight to honour is Dr. Sarah Wolfe of Chungsiang, Hupeh, China, who has been for many years one of our most prominent Methodist medical missionaries. We all regretted to hear of her serious illness contracted while attending the wounded in Hankow, but are glad to know that she has now sufficiently recovered to be able to resume her duties.

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My second in Wesley but not in John
My third is in Method but not in Way
My fourth is in Midnight but not in Day
My fifth is in Preacher but not in Text
My seventh in Heated but not in Vexed
My seventh is in Saddle but not in Bit
My eighth is in Foundry but not in Pit.
My whole is the name of one whom Wesley loved.

Jumbled Places

Rope Thw
Roggeia
St. Geraldsgate

Lad Gnen
Coad Irty
For Dox

Answers will be found on inside back cover.

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On memories of the happy days of yore,
Our thoughts go back across the years, to wonder
If those we loved shall meet with us once more.
With sadness we recall how widely sundered
We are from friends who dwell across the sea,
Dear exiles who have made their home with strangers,
Fond memory brings them back to you and me.

For though the wide, wide oceans may divide us,
There is a bridge that spans both sea and land,
The "Bridge of Thought," and all who will may use it,
It joins each heart to heart and hand to hand.
Come forth upon that bridge, Oh friends, we ask you,
Your thought like ours can vanquish time and space,
And so we keep our memories fresh and verdant,
Till once again we each meet face to face.

But some we loved have gone from us for ever,
No more we hear their voice or see their smile,
With them the bond of love which nought can sever
Shall re-unite us in "a little while."
Till then—if we but walk the path before us
With patient hope, with faith and courage rare,
And thus at last we reach the end victorious—
We too shall sleep, and wake to find them there.

SARAH EVANS

Methodism In and Around Union Hall

IN the upper reaches of Castletownshend harbour is found a flourishing little Methodist colony, composed of the families of the two sons of the late Mr. Robert Good—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Good, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Good, and their families. Their homes are situated close to the first monument ever erected to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. Mr. Ben Good has kindly given me the following description of that interesting memorial: "The monument, which stands on a high hill in the Castletownshend demesne, is in the form of an arch. It was sketched and planned by Captain J. R. Watson, R.N., and built by him with the help of twelve hundred sea-fencibles. It was erected in five hours on the 10th November, 1805. On August 28th, 1920, it was pulled down by persons unknown, but was re-erected on the 23rd April, 1926. At the time of its re-construction, a penny, bearing the date '1805,' was found under it. This penny, together with one of the year 1926, was re-placed under the foundation." Mr. Good has also afforded the editor of this booklet the following interesting interview descriptive of phases of Methodism during the last fifty years in the district:—

Editor: I should be glad, Mr. Good, if you could recall some interesting facts of earlier days of Union Hall Methodism.

Mr. Good: The first Methodist services I remember in Union Hall were held in a little hall in the village, by the quayside. This meeting-house was little more than a loft over a fisherman's store. The seats we sat on were stools without backs. In addition to hearing the circuit ministers, we often listened to lay preachers, amongst whom were Mr. John Kingston, of Skahannagh, and my father. Later the venue of the services was changed to Mr. Tamplin's residence, Listarkin. Mr. Tamplin afterwards died at a ripe old age, having almost completed a century. Mr. Tamplin removed from the district and sold his house to Captain William Tower Townshend. The Captain very courteously permitted the services to be continued in Listarkin House. Later, Captain Townshend gave a free site and a substantial subscription for the building of the present attractive Methodist Church in Union Hall; and actively participated in holding services when free to do so. His interest in Methodism was, and still is, shared by his wife, the Honourable Mrs. Townshend, who is a sister of the late Lord Curzon, one-time Viceroy of India, and by his family. The present representative of the family is Miss Margaret Townshend, who is a loyal supporter of our services. The Captain and his wife now reside at Bodiam Manor, Sussex, but, when visiting our district, are constant attenders at our little church.

Editor: Union Hall Church is, then, not so very long built.

Mr. Good: About forty-seven years. This beautiful little edifice, situated on rising ground above the seaside village of Union Hall, was erected by the combined efforts of Methodists of the surrounding district, among whom were Mr. J. Kingston,

Recalling Skibbereen

MR. CULLEN has asked me to give a brief account of myself since my departure from Skibbereen. It is now many years since I said farewell to many friends, on this circuit, who gave me much guidance and encouragement as a beginner in Christian work. Those who helped me most are no longer with us. I think in particular of the late Mr. R. S. Wolfe, my employer, and Mrs. Wolfe. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Johnston of Townshend Street kept their home ever open to all of us young people in business houses. The late Mr. Samuel Connell, and Mr. Ben Good of Rineen, were all alive to our spiritual needs. Mr. Storey, then in charge of our day school, was the first to persuade me to take part in public worship. He has lately retired from the staff of Wesley College. I could mention many other names, but these stand out vividly still in my mind.

Skibbereen in those days was a great circuit, and one that catered well for its young people. In large numbers we were found in the Young Men's Reading Rooms and Gymnasium. Foster Johnston was our Gym. captain, and I remember the interest created in our annual display. Many non-Methodist young people as well as ourselves used to swell the congregation on Sunday nights. I often heard Rev. G. A. McIlwrath, who was then in Ballydehob, say what an inspiration it was to preach to such a crowd of young people. Strange to say, I was a member of the choir and was trained by the organist, Miss Vickery as she then was, to take the tenor part, and on one or two occasions I had the audacity to attempt a solo.

When Rev. H. H. Cornish was leaving the circuit for Bandon he took me with him as Circuit Evangelist. The following year I was accepted for the ministry, and spent three years in the Methodist College, Belfast. From College I went to Newtownards Road Circuit, where all my probation was spent. Afterwards I was appointed to Lisburn Road, then to Jennymount (Belfast), my first married appointment. I found myself next on the staff of the Belfast Central Mission, and was asked at the same time to do some teaching in Edgehill College. In 1928 I was appointed a full-time tutor in Edgehill. I am not sure which I prefer—Circuit work or my present task. All I can say is that I have been exceedingly happy in both spheres.

I am responsible in the College for teaching five subjects, and with the other members of the staff I help to keep the "Irish Christian Advocate" in existence.

Rev. Alex McCrea, M.A., is our principal, and Rev. A. E. Emerson, B.A., the junior tutor. We are very happy together. We have with us as lady warden Mrs. Roycroft, whose gifts, graces, and devotion to the interests of the college are appreciated by us all.

We have at present excellent men in training for the ministry and we feel there is no work in which we can be engaged that is

more important. One of your ministers, Rev. W. E. Cullen, B.A., was a student of mine. Like most healthy-minded students, he was, at times, a bit of a playboy. But he had then, as still, a conscientiousness and keenness of mind refreshing to those who are brought into contact with him. I need only add my best wishes and prayers for him and the circuit. May the future, for Skibbereen Methodism, be even richer in blessing than the past!

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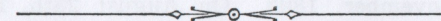
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Your thought like ours can vanquish time and space,
And so we keep our memories fresh and verdant,
Till once again we each meet face to face.

But some we loved have gone from us for ever,
No more we hear their voice or see their smile,
With them the bond of love which nought can sever
Shall re-unite us in "a little while."
Till then—if we but walk the path before us
With patient hope, with faith and courage rare,
And thus at last we reach the end victorious—
We too shall sleep, and wake to find them there.

SARAH EVANS

The Thrush



HIGH and clear—like a bird—in a wood,
Sing of the things that are noble and good.

Up aloft in a purer air,
He sings of God's thoughts that surround him there.

We cannot tell the words of his song,
But it holds no hint of sorrow or wrong.

On this fine Spring day, in the leafless trees,
He looks at Heaven and sings as he sees,

And it isn't a challenge or mating call,
But a Hymn of Praise to the Giver of All.

In every one of the full, clear notes,
A joy beyond our expression floats . . .

Much more than the bird can understand—
He has caught the vibration from Heaven's far land,

And every note that we hear him sing
Is attuned to and echoes the voice of Spring,

While the theme is the same by the first birds sung
In a sinless Eden, when all was young.

High and clear—like a bird—in a wood,
Sing of the things that are noble and good.

F. M. WOLFE

G.B.S.—Good Boy!



In the issues of the "Irish Evangelist," forerunner of the "Christian Advocate," dated January 1866, July 1866, and August 1867, there appear lists of prize-winners in the Wesleyan Connexional School (now Wesley College), Dublin. A number of names well-known in West Cork appear: Wolfe (who was father of Mrs. F. M. Wolfe, Corner House, Skibbereen), Vance, Skuce, Jennings, Storey. Good conduct certificates were also awarded to these, and at two of these prize-givings to "G. B. Shaw." The certificated student can be no other than the world-famous George Bernard Shaw, whose wife is one of the notable West Cork family, the Townshends of Derry, Rossscarbery.

What a comfort it is to know that G.B.S.'s conduct was deemed "good" during at least part of two successive years! West Cork is proud of the man who is the Shakespeare of the present age.—Ed.

Skahannagh; Mr. William Thomas Bennett, Rineen; Mr. Matthew Kingston, Seaview.

Editor: Modesty prevents you from adding "Mr. Good, Rineen."

Mr. Good: At the opening service of the church the entire cost of building was paid off.

Editor: Union Hall seems to have had a number of very devoted families.

Mr. Good: Yes. Amongst the outstanding "pillars of the Church" were Mr. J. Kingston before-mentioned. So devoted was he that he opened his home for a monthly prayer meeting. Both he and Mrs. Kingston were greatly noted for their hospitality. (Like so many of the West Cork folk, and not least the Good family.—Ed.). The family tradition is splendidly carried on in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. William Kingston, Laragh, Bandon; Mr. and Mrs. James Kingston, Bayview, Carrigaline; and Mr. R. Kingston, of Canada, whose late respected wife was the daughter of Mr. William Wolfe, Schull. Miss Fanny Sweetnam, now Mrs. Bryan of Maryville, Enniskeane, also identified herself actively with all the Church life. In later years we rejoiced in the fact that in Union Hall we possessed one of the leading juvenile collectors in the British Isles, Miss Nancy Fuller. She is now the wife of our former Superintendent, the Rev. James Ritchie.

Editor: Rineen has always seemed to me to have an unusual attraction for a place so far away from any town, with its waterway for steamships, your pleasant residences, and your busy mill nearby.

Mr. Good: I have looked up the records and my deduction is that the corn-mill, now owned by my brother and myself, in which our sons also have responsible positions, has been operating for upwards of three hundred years.

Editor: Your place of business seems to have had a wonderful history. I am particularly interested to hear that such a prominent Irish citizen as the late Mr. James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P., was once owner of the mill.

Mr. Good: That is quite true; and I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Swanton, and early learnt to appreciate his great business capabilities. "Governor" Swanton, as he was locally called, was a man of striking appearance and punctilious habits. It was his custom to rise at 5.30 a.m. and go systematically around his workmen's houses to "knock them up" for their day's work.

Editor: I must confess I am glad I was not in employment at the mill!

Mr. Good: During the "Governor's" residence at Rineen he built several ships in his grounds, to ply between Cork and his various mills along the coast. He regularly held services in his beautiful home. Mrs. Rachel Wolfe, the oldest member of our circuit to-day, once told me that amongst the happiest memories of her childhood were the visits to Mr. Swanton's house, when the Sunday School children were at liberty to pick the fruits in the well-stocked garden. On leaving Rineen, Mr. Swanton went

to reside in Dublin, where he became circuit steward of the Centenary Church, Stephen's Green. He was probably one of the foremost laymen of the Methodist Church; was present to speak and contribute at most of the important Methodist gatherings from 1860; and was included in the Irish representation to the First Oecumenical Conference of World Methodism, held in London, in 1881. A son of Mr. Swanton's was the late Rev. William Swanton, Methodist minister, to whose memory a handsome tablet stands in Skibbereen Church.

Editor: I hear that your father was a notable figure in our church life here.

Mr. Good: He was a class leader and a local preacher. He came to reside at Rineen about 1874. Even previous to this, in 1871, there is a record of his having held a well-attended service in Rosscarbory. From the time he came to Rineen he constantly interested himself in evangelistic work, and himself held monthly meetings in his home. Cornish and Manx fishermen, who at that time were often engaged in fishing for mackerel off our coast, frequently joined in the services at Rineen and Union Hall. They enlivened the worship by their wonderful singing, and some of them even preached. In this connection one anecdote is worth recording. Some of the Manxmen were strolling around the lawn on a Sunday afternoon, when one of them was attacked by rather a vicious dog, belonging to our family, and got his trousers torn badly. My father, who noticed the unfortunate occurrence, immediately rushed to the rescue with a pair of his own trousers, and, ever ready as the good man was to "do all possible good to all men," he seized this opportunity to invite the "rescued" man and his friends to the service about to be held in Union Hall. The invitation was accepted, and the Manxmen thoroughly enjoyed the hour of worship.

John Wesley Listens

"In the evening" (of the 24th May, 1738), writes Wesley, in his famous Journal, "I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About A QUARTER BEFORE NINE, while he was describing the change which God worketh in the heart through faith in Christ, I FELT MY HEART STRANGELY WARMED. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given to me that He had taken away MY sins, even MINE, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Here are a few sentences from the Preface to Romans which so profoundly affected Wesley's career:—

"True faith is the work of God in us by which we are born

Skibbereen, and a Junior Society and Wesley Guild in Ballydehob, and, in addition, Bible Classes in Skibbereen and Lissacaha. There are Sunday Schools in Skibbereen and Ballydehob, and although the numbers attending them at present are not so large as in the past, the work is being carried on as efficiently as ever and with marked success, five scholars belonging to both schools having this year obtained money prizes in connection with the Connexional Sunday School Examination. Skibbereen, too, has a flourishing company of Girl Guides. Provision is made also for the recreation of our young people, there being badminton and table tennis clubs in Skibbereen, and a table tennis club in Ballydehob.

We are glad to be able to report a growing interest in spiritual things among the young people on the circuit. The present is full of encouragement, we are full of hope for the future. Like John Wesley, we can say, "The best of all is, God is with us."

R. C. RODDIE.



James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P.,
Circuit Steward for about a quarter of
a century, from 1840.

dehob—which, if they do not bear comparison in size with the congregations of the past, are an inspiration to the ministers who are privileged to minister to them. It is a surprise to many visitors from the North, having heard of our declining numbers in the South, to find that we have congregations so large on the Skibbereen circuit. If in the other churches on the circuit—Schull, Lissacaha and Union Hall—we have not so large congregations as in Skibbereen and Ballydehob, we thank God for them—they are a continual source of help and encouragement to those who minister to them. By their devoted service and loyalty to the Church of their fathers, they keep Methodism alive in these Southern outposts of Irish Methodism.

A distinguished English layman who, with his family, spent his summer holidays in Schull for two successive years, told the writer that nothing had impressed him more during his visits than the loyalty and devotion of our people to their church.

In all the congregations on our circuit there is the same loyalty and devotion on the part of our people to their church. No other interests are allowed to clash with those of their church—the interests of their church come first. Any service they can render to their church is willingly given. Sacrificial service, wholehearted devotion to their church characterises all our people.

What loving care is given by our people to the churches on the circuit, which always present a bright and attractive appearance.

Something, too, must be said of the great generosity of our people. Skibbereen Methodists have always been noted for their generosity to circuit and connexional funds; but we venture to say that the generosity of our people in the past to these funds has never exceeded that of our people to-day to them. How magnificently to-day, for example, our people contribute to the Home and Overseas Mission funds. Last year they gave £103 10s. 6d. to the Home Mission Fund, and £111 10s. 2d. to the Overseas Mission Fund. We are thankful to God that we have people with such generous hearts on our circuit, people who, in a great many cases, give to the point of sacrifice.

Such sacrificial giving on the part of our people cannot but have its reward. That reward is at present seen in an ever-increasing and deepening interest in the work of our Church in the homeland and in the lands beyond the seas; it is seen, too, in our Home and Overseas missionary anniversary services, which are always seasons of deep spiritual blessing to our people.

At present a distinct spiritual quickening is being felt all over our circuit, leading our people to pray for a spiritual revival of religion in our midst. Responding to that desire on the part of our people, the ministers of the circuit have arranged for special mission services, conducted by the Connexional General Missionary, to be held in Skibbereen and Ballydehob in the Autumn.

A word, perhaps, should be said about the work amongst the young on our circuit. We have upwards of eighty young people on the circuit, and their interests are being well looked after. There is a Young People's Christian Endeavour Society in

again and renewed, through God, and the Spirit of God." "Faith is an energy in the heart; at once so efficacious, lively, breathing and powerful, as to be incapable of remaining inactive, but bursts forth into operation." "Whoever, from such a living affection, produces no good works, is still in a state of total unbelief." "This firm trust in the mercy of God is so animating as to cheer, elevate, and excite the heart, and to transport it with certain most sweet affections towards God."

We often hear of the "logic on fire" of Wesley's preaching; but Wesley could never have **preached** and **evangelised** so successfully for over half a century, had he not once **listened** so attentively to the reading of such words by an "unknown disciple."—Ed.

EXTRACT from a letter to Mrs. Malenior from John Wesley, dated London, August, 19th, 1781. Mrs. Malenior was great-great-grandmother to Mr. W. A. Wolfe, Skibbereen.

My Dear Sister,

I frequently heard something of you from our dear friend, Sister Ward, who has been a sharer with you in all your afflictions. It has pleased God to try you as silver is tried; but you will lose nothing beside your dross. In every temptation hitherto He has made the way of escape that you might be able to bear it. . . . this was all permitted in tender mercy that you might receive the greater profit thereby and be so much the more conformed to the image of Our Lord. Peace be with your spirit.

I am,

My dear sister,

Your affectionate brother,

JOHN WESLEY.

Thackery Approves

In his classic, "Irish Sketch Book," William Makepeace Thackery notes that in 1842 Skibbereen possessed "a trim Wesleyan Chapel without any broken windows!" The late Rev. William Corrigan, commenting on this, says:—"It is impossible to discover who was chapel (society) steward in Skibbereen in that year, but he must have attended well to his business."

In a record of circuit account for 1842 one entry may throw light on the identity of that chapel steward. The entry reads:—"Balance due to Mr. G. Evans, £1 10s. 0d." Is it not reasonable to infer that the person owed, Mr. George Evans, was the church treasurer or chapel steward?—Ed.

Ministers Stationed on the Skibbereen Circuit (1798-1938)

- (A) denotes resided in Bantry.
(B) " " " Ballydehob.
(S) " " " Schull.
(Skib.) " " " Skibbereen.
(Supy.) denotes Supernumerary

Except where otherwise stated, the Superintendent Minister (whose name is always placed first) resided in Skibbereen.

- 1798—John Hamilton.
1799—John Hamilton, Henry Deery.
1800—Thomas Edwards, Thomas Keys.
1801—Thomas Edwards, John Clegg.
1802—A. Campbell, H. Webb.
1803—James Stuart, John Rogers, H. Webb (Supy.).
1804—John Glendinnen, James Rutledge.
1805—No appointment. United to Bandon.
1806—John Hadden.
1807—John Hadden.
1808—John Rogers.
1809—John Hadden.
1810—John Rogers, John Waugh.
1811—Andrew Taylor.
1812—John Waugh.
1813—John Waugh.
1814—John Carey.
1815—John Carey.
1816—Francis Stephens.
1817—R. Masaroon; John Waugh (Supy.).
1818—Robert Bruce.
1819—Robert Bruce.
1820—William Crook.
1821—William Crook.
1822—Sam. Kyle, Fossey Tackaberry (later).
1823—John Holmes.
1824—John Wilson.
1825—Matt. Lankree, junr.
1826—William Foote.
1827—Richard Phillips.
1828—Richard Phillips.
1829—James Patterson.
1830—James Patterson, William Mulloy.
1831—James Patterson, John Saul.
1832—Thomas Ballard, John Saul.
1833—Thomas Ballard, William Starkey.
1834—Thomas Ballard, W. A. Darby.
1835—William Richey, George Grant.
1836—William Richey, George Grant.
1837—John Saul, John Liddy.
1838—John Saul, W. J. Norwood.
1839—John Hadden, John H. Atkins.
1840—John Hadden, John H. Boyd.
1841—John Hadden, Thomas K. Whittaker.
1842—John Waugh, John Bagley.
1843—John Waugh, Thomas K. Whittaker.
1844—John Waugh, Fred. Elliott.
1845—John William, Edward K. Young, James B. Gillman (Supy.).
1846—John Williams, William Lough.

rarely spoken in my native town, it was passing strange to me not to hear a word of English during my progress through the crowded streets." In 1824, through the preaching of the greatly beloved evangelist, William Feckman, James H. Swanton was led to Christ. The days from 1832 to 1847 were full of woe for the countryside. Mr. Tackaberry notes that two of the Skibbereen class-leaders had "succumbed to that devastating malady, cholera." West Cork suffered heavily from the Great Famine; in Skibbereen "there was constant use of the death car."

In the day of John Whitley, who, as stated in another article, personally helped in the erection of the first Methodist church in Schull, there took place a famous debate between the rector, the Rev. Dr. Traill, and the Rev. Thomas Ballard. The happy sequel was that Dr. Traill became a fast friend of the Methodist minister and people. What we might call "Father Whitley's church" is still in use as a Methodist lecture hall. The original church in Ballydehob is also still standing and is also used for social purposes. In the grounds is the present handsome "Powell Memorial" church, for the erection of which the late Rev. Wm. Sproule worked so hard.

The building of Aughadown church was begun by Rev. J. M. Sayers and carried through by Rev. Wm. Weir. Both in the erection of this church, and later, in that of Union Hall church, about which more is said elsewhere, one of the hardest workers was the late Mr. T. R. Roycroft. Lack of space prevents mention of the Skibbereen church, which has been considered "one of the finest in Southern Ireland."

Gratefully we remember the achievements of the builders of souls and builders of sanctuaries.

"And we, forgotten or unknown
Young children, gather, as their own,
The harvest that the dead have sown."

BEN GOOD.

The above extracts, culled from an admirable paper read by Mr. Ben Good some twenty-five years ago, by their necessary brevity, fail to do justice to the original. They should be regarded as supplementary to the articles on "Beginnings," "Sanctuary Building," etc.

The Circuit To-day

MUCH has been written in this booklet about the past history of Skibbereen Methodism, but we feel that something should be written about the present. The past history of our circuit is one of which we are justly proud, but we should feel equally proud of our present record.

In writing of the present on the Skibbereen circuit, we should like to begin by saying, "The glory is not departed." True, our membership is not so large to-day as in the past—we have not to-day congregations that fill our churches, but we have congregations in at least two of our churches—Skibbereen and Bally-

Some Former Circuit Officials



We do not claim that the following list of Circuit and Society Stewards and Sunday School Superintendents is more than fairly complete. The office of Junior Circuit Steward has nearly always been held by a Society Steward, so no special mention is given of this office. Space also precludes us from naming a long and distinguished line of Class Leaders, men and women, from some of the earliest: Captain and Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Mary O'Keeffe, Mrs. Moore, and George Levis: to the late beloved Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, widow of the late Mr. G. W. Johnson, who has recently passed from amongst us.

Circuit Stewards—Robert Swanton (1834 c. to 1839), J. H. Swanton (for a quarter of a century from 1840), Samuel W. Levis, John J. Wolfe, James S. Wolfe, Samuel R. Levis, Robert S. Wolfe, George W. Johnson, Samuel Connell, and Jabez Correll.

Society Stewards—SKIBBEREEN: Samuel Levis, John Copithorne, Robert Gardiner and Robert S. Wolfe. SCHULL: John Whitley, George St. Lawrence Whitley, Alfred T. Cocks, William Wolfe and Miss A. E. Connell. BALLYDEHOB: Samuel Jagoe, H. J. Bennett, William Moore, George Jennings, Joseph Moore, Robert S. Wolfe, R. Evans, Mrs. J. J. Roycroft.

Sunday School Superintendents—SKIBBEREEN: J. H. Swanton, Robert Bullen, Richard Waugh, John J. Wolfe, George W. Johnson and Jabez Correll. SCHULL: John Evans, William Wolfe, and resident ministers. BALLYDEHOB: William Wolfe (1868 c.), Captain Daniels, H. J. Bennett, G. Jennings, R. S. Wolfe, Miss A. Kingston, Mrs. J. J. Roycroft.

Local Preachers—Robert Gardiner, James Craig, John Emmerson, David H. Hadden, John Rowland, William Young, William Wolfe (Schull), George St. L. Whitley, Richard Cole*, W. Y. Northridge*, George Jennings, Robert Warner, W. A. Storey, William Swanton*, Robert Good, T. R. Roycroft, Bertram C. Moran*, William L. Northridge*, Harry Good, John Kingston.

*Entered the Methodist Ministry, later.

Early Evangelists and Churches



IN 1797 the Rev. Adam Averell, the noted evangelist, visited Skibbereen and district. With a Mr. Murphy, he proceeded to the home of Mr. R. Swanton, Ballybawn. When Rev. J. Hamilton was appointed to Skibbereen in 1798, Societies had already been formed in Aughadown and Ardrally; but he made his way to Ballydehob, Schull and Lissacaha. Mr. Averell paid another visit to the district in 1800, when he touched on the places mentioned, and, in addition, Lisheenacrehig, Bawnknockane, Gubbeen, Ballyrisode, Cape Clear, Crookhaven, and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roycroft, Kilpatrick. In the commencement of 1802 Messrs. Graham and Gideon Ousley came on an evangelist tour, and many hundreds flocked to hear them. Owing to the illness of Rev. S. Kyle, another preacher, the Rev. Fossey Tackaberry, well-known in Methodist history, was sent, in 1822, to minister. Tackaberry, then a young man, tells us in his Diary: "It was market day when I arrived in Skibbereen, and Irish being

- 1847—James Patterson, William Lough.
- 1848—James Patterson, Thomas W. Baker.
- 1849—James Patterson, Mortlock Long,
- 1850—Robert Bruce, Mortlock Long.
- 1851—Robert Bruce, James S. Waugh.
- 1852—Robert Bruce, James S. Waugh; John Waugh (Supy.).
- 1853—George Vance, James S. Waugh, John Waugh (Supy.).
- 1854—George Vance, John D. Powell.
- 1855—George Vance, Robert Hazelton.
- 1856—Wallace McMullen, William Swanton; Robert Bruce, John Liddy, John H. Atkins (Supys.).
- 1857—Wallace McMullen, William Gorman; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1858—Wallace McMullen, Edward Guard; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1859—Thomas A. McKee, Edward Guard; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1860—Thomas A. McKee, Samuel Dunlop; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1861—Thomas A. McKee, Samuel Dunlop; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1862—Oliver McCutcheon, John Green; Robert Bruce (Supy.).
- 1863—Oliver McCutcheon, Charles H. Crookshank.
- 1864—Oliver McCutcheon, Charles H. Crookshank; William Swanton (Supy.).
- 1865—George Vance, William Nicholas, William Swanton (Supy.).
- 1866—George Vance, Joseph Frazer.
- 1867—George Vance, Richard S. D. Campbell.
- 1868—John Dwyer, Richard S. D. Campbell.
- 1869—John Dwyer, Edward de Courcy; John D. Powell (Supy.).
- 1870—John Donald, Edward de Courcy.
- 1871—William R. Starkey, Albert E. Kinmouth.
- 1872—William R. Starkey, Albert E. Kinmouth.
- 1873—William R. Starkey, George D. Lindsay.
- 1874—James M. Sayers, George D. Lindsay.
- 1875—James M. Sayers, John Madden (A); Warren Henry (Supy.).
- 1876—James M. Sayers, John Hadden (A.), James D. Lamont (S.).
- 1877—Samuel Weir, Thomas Forde (A), James D. Lamont (S), Henry N. Kevin.
- 1878—Samuel Weir, Thomas Forde (A), James D. Lamont (S), William A. Bracken.
- 1879—Samuel Weir, Thomas Forde (S), John G. Whittaker (A), William A. Bracken; John Liddy (Supy.).
- 1880—James Oliver, William Sproule (S), John G. Whittaker, S. M. H. Nesbitt; John Liddy, N. J. Warner (Supy.).
- 1881—James Oliver, William Sproule (S), John J. Whittaker, Thomas Moran (2nd); John Liddy (Supy.).
- 1882—James Oliver, Francis Douglas (A), William Sproule (S), Thos. Moran (2nd), John Liddy (Supy.).
- 1883—John Gilcriest, Frederick A. Trotter (S), James D. Foster, M.A.; John C. Storey (Supy.).
- 1884—John Gilcriest, Frederick A. Trotter (S), James D. Foster, M.A.; John C. Storey (Supy.).
- 1885—John Gilcriest, F. A. Trotter, William A. Dickson; John C. Storey (Supy.).
- 1886—Thomas Knox, William Clarke (S), William A. Dickson.
- 1887—Thomas Knox, William Clarke (S); William A. Dickson; James Collier (Supy.).
- 1888—Thomas Knox, James S. C. Waugh (S), Hugh McKeag (B).
- 1889—William Sproule, James C. Waugh (S) Nathaniel R. Haskins, M.A. (B).
- 1890—William Sproule, William Smyth (S), Nathaniel R. Haskins, M.A. (B); James Collier (Supy.).
- 1891—William Sproule, James W. Parkhill (S), Nathaniel R. Haskins, M.A. (B); James Collier (Supy.).
- 1892—Gabriel M. Clarke, James W. Parkhill (S), Samuel Allen (B).
- 1893—Gabriel M. Clarke, Alexander Abraham, Henry Frackelton (B).
- 1894—Gabriel M. Clarke, Alexander Abraham (S), Henry Frackelton (B).
- 1895—Alexander Abraham (S), William Corrigan (Skib.), William Moore (B).

- 1896—William Corrigan, William Moore (S), William McVitty (B).
 1897—William Corrigan, Nathaniel R. Haskins, M.A. (S), Chas. Wilson (B).
 1898—William J. Christie, Nathaniel R. Haskins, M.A. (S), Herbert Deale (B).
 1899—William J. Christie, Robert Maxwell (S), James Cathcart (B).
 1900—W. J. Christie, Robert Maxwell (S), James Cathcart (B).
 1901—Thomas Forde, Robert Maxwell (S), Thomas Scott (B).
 1902—Thomas Forde, William T. Cairns (S), Thomas Scott (B).
 1903—Thomas Forde, William T. Cairns (S), Geo. A. McIlwrath (B).
 1904—Herbert H. Cornish, W. T. Cairns (S), G. A. McIlwrath (B).
 1905—H. H. Cornish, Robt. J. Elliott (S), Wm. Thompson (B).
 1906—Henry McConnell, Robt. J. Elliott, B.A. (S), Wm. Thompson (B).
 1907—Henry McConnell, Robt. J. Elliott (S), Wm. Thompson (B).
 1908—Henry McConnell, Wm. J. Oliver (S), John Montgomery (B).
 1909—C. Henry Crookshank, Alexander Cairns (S), John Montgomery (B).
 1910—C. Henry Crookshank, Alex. Cairns (S), John H. Brownrigg (B).
 1911—C. Henry Crookshank, Alex. Cairns (S), Albert S. Hullah (B), N. R. Haskins (Supy.).
 1912—W. J. Robinson, B.A.; Thomas M. Edward (S), Francis E. Morrow (B).
 1913—W. J. Robinson, T. M. Edwards (S), James A. Gordon (B).
 1914—W. J. Robinson, Albert E. Carson (S), James A. Gordon (B).
 1915—Robert D. Cody, A. E. Carson (S), Robert T. Kerr (B).
 1916—Robert D. Cody, A. E. Carson, B.A. (S), Robert T. Kerr (B).
 1917—Robert D. Cody, J. Baird Ewens (S), Samuel A. McCormack (B).
 1918—William Clarke, J. Baird Ewens (S).
 1919—William Clarke, J. B. Ewens (S), Frederick E. Hill (B).
 1920—William Clarke, Albert E. Glanville (S), George M. Fennell (B).
 1921—James D. Foster, M.A.; A. E. Glanville (S), Geo. M. Fennell (B).
 1922—J. D. Foster, A. E. Glanville (S).
 1923—J. D. Foster, Charles F. Maguire (S).
 1924—James D. Foster, M.A.; Charles F. Maguire.
 1925—John Woodrow, Henry G. Martin (S).
 1926—John Woodrow, Henry G. Martin (S).
 1927—J. Woodrow, H. G. Martin (S).
 1928—James Ritchie, James W. Norcott, B.A. (S).
 1929—James Ritchie, J. W. Norcott (S).
 1930—James Ritchie, J. W. Norcott (S).
 1931—James Ritchie, J. W. Norcott.
 1932—James Ritchie, J. W. Norcott (S).
 1933—E. Shaw, J. Truesdale (S).
 1934—Ernest Shaw, Robert C. Roddie, M.A. (S).
 1935—Ernest Shaw, Robert C. Roddie (S).
 1936—Robert C. Roddie (S), William E. Cullen, B.A. (Skib.).
 1937—Robert C. Roddie (S), William E. Cullen (Skib.).

RECENT DEATHS.

- On October 4th, 1936, at his residence, Cassivina, Ballydehob, Robert Dungan; for many years leader, precentor, and beloved Christian.
 On February 2nd, 1937, at his residence, Glandore, Nicholas Driscoll. A man of true piety, and a regular member of our services in Union Hall.
 On April 5th, 1937, Ellen Correll, widow of the late Jabez Correll. A true Christian whose practical interest in our church extended over half a century.
 On 17th November, 1937, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. V. G. Power, Elizabeth, widow of the late George W. Johnson, Class-leader and Mother in Israel. After sixty years of loving service to our church she still beckons us to follow.
 On 25th February, 1938, at his residence, Main Street, Schull, Samuel Whitley. A man greatly beloved, and "full of almsdeeds and good deeds."

Rev. R. Lee Cole.

Up till 1897 this chapel served its purpose when the Rev. William Corrigan undertook and carried through extensive improvements which made it the beautiful structure it now is, at a cost of about £900.

A very fine description of the chapel was given in the local paper, "The Eagle and County Cork Advertiser," from which the following extracts are taken:—"The improvements consist of a red brick and box stone front with Gothic pitch. The windows are mullioned also by cut box stone; the porch corresponds with the front and the whole exterior is indeed beautiful and imposing. In the interior the chapel has been fitted with a number of pitch pine seats. In the chancel end there are three magnificent presentation windows—the centre one was presented by Mrs. Rachel M. Wolfe, Skibbereen. One of the side windows is in memory of Mr. S. W. Levis, and the other of his son, Mr. Samuel R. Levis, both being the gift of the Levis family, Skibbereen. The designs are exceedingly beautiful and should be seen to be properly appreciated."

The re-opening service was conducted on Friday, 18th June, by Rev. Charles Garrett, assisted by Revs. W. A. Bracken and W. R. Starkey. The sermons on the following Sunday were preached by Rev. William Gorman.

In 1933 Centenary Commemoration services were held when the Rev. William Corrigan was the preacher; large congregations assembled from all over West Cork.

In 1930, through the generosity of Mrs. Cocks, Schull, who gave £200, and Mr. R. Hunt, who gave a plot of ground free, a beautiful chapel was erected at Lissacaha, which replaces the old one, which was dilapidated and inaccessible. This chapel was opened by the late Rev. John E. Neill, B.A., and handed over to the Conference free of debt.

May the power that inspired early Methodism fall afresh upon this great and historic circuit in this Bi-centenary year.

JAMES RITCHIE.

The New Manse, Skibbereen

The Manse, built by the late Rev. W. J. Christie, on the Mardyke Road, having been found unsuitable for our present needs, has been sold recently. A site has been secured for the building of a new Manse; and an architect is now preparing plans.

Sanctuary Building

A NY minister who has not travelled the Skibbereen circuit has not seen Methodism in Ireland at its best. The building of its Churches and their renovation from time to time reveal something of the warmth of the devotion of this most Southerly circuit. The care and attention bestowed on the house of prayer is a fairly accurate index of the quality of the people's Christian life. This is eminently true of Methodism in the Skibbereen circuit.

The first chapel seems to have been built in Skibbereen about the year 1800 and in Aughadown in 1803. In Schull the building of the chapel took place in 1825, in connection with which is the interesting record: "On Friday, 24th June, 1825, a new chapel was opened in Schull by the Rev. Henry Deery, and although the day proved unfavourable there was a crowded congregation, while a gracious influence rested on the whole assembly. This building cost only £60, but the roof was put on free of all charge by a young man named John Whitley, whose father's house was the principal stopping place for the preachers in this neighbourhood, and who himself had been converted a short time previously and appointed a leader and local preacher."

Immediately after this arrangements were made for the erection of a chapel in Ballydehob.

In 1831 a little chapel at Lissacaha was opened by Rev. V. J. Reilly. One of those who was present states: "In that humble structure, standing on a chair, the servant of God preached such an able and eloquent sermon as I never heard before or since." In that lowly structure many a soul has been won for Christ.

In 1834 permission was given by the Conference to build a chapel at Union Hall. It does not appear that a chapel was built here until a later period when the present chapel was erected.

In 1833 a new chapel became necessary in Skibbereen, the old chapel having become too "strait" for the increasing congregation. The record of the building of this chapel in Skibbereen forms one of the most interesting in the history of Irish Methodism. In a neatly kept pass-book, written in beautiful calligraphy, bearing the name of Mr. Samuel Levis, treasurer, is a list of subscribers which must represent much self-denial and sacrifice.

The first five subscribers are for £20 each, viz.: Samuel Levis, James Wright, George Evans, George Vickery, and George Levis. Other amounts are for from £10 to £1, and only one for less than £1. One entry is "A Roman Catholic gentleman," £2.

The account of the opening services are given and the preacher, with the amount of the collection at each service as follows:—10 o'clock: Rev. H. Price, £4 13s. 2 o'clock: Dr. Bennett, £4 17s. 7d. 7 o'clock: Rev. F. Tackaberry, £4 1s. 9d.

In 1860 an addition was made to the building, of 20 feet, the architect being Mr. Richard Lee, maternal grandfather of the

Fourteen Presidents Who Ministered on Skibbereen Circuit

REV. THOMAS A. MCKEE, D.D.—At the Conference of 1864, he was appointed to the responsible position of Governor and Chaplain to the Wesleyan Connexional School, now known as Wesley College, and for the lengthened period of twenty-seven years, discharged the onerous duties devolving upon him with characteristic ability. His voice was not often heard in the debates of Conference, but his brethren showed their high estimate of his character and worth by electing him to the office of Vice-President in 1885, which he filled with characteristic fidelity and ability.

REV. WILLIAM GORMAN.—Though pre-eminently a preacher, he was wise, courageous, and effective in the discharge of official duties. In the office of Vice-President, to which he was called by the hearty goodwill of the Church, he proved himself a capable administrator. With growing years his fame grew.

REV. THOMAS KNOX.—He was loved and trusted by his brethren, who on several occasions elected him Chairman of important Districts. In 1904 he was appointed Vice-President of the Conference, an office which he filled with ability and dignity.

REV. JAMES W. PARKHILL.—"He enjoyed the respect and confidence of his brethren at all times and was called to serve in important administrative positions. With ability and distinction he discharged the duties of Secretary and Chairman of several Districts, Secretary of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, and as President of the Church in 1923. In every sphere was evidence of marked diligence and fidelity."

REV. WILLIAM MOORE.—He made careful preparation for the pulpit and was an earnest and impressive preacher of the Gospel. As Chairman of the Enniskillen and Waterford and Tullamore Districts he rendered faithful service. In 1930 he was elected President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

REV. C. HENRY CROOKSHANK.—At present the capable and efficient President of our Church, and widely known in every part of Ireland for the help he has rendered to many circuits. He filled the office of Secretary of the Conference with conspicuous ability.

REV. WALLACE McMULLEN, D.D.—"He was appointed a member of the Legal Hundred in 1871, and four times filled the position of Vice-President. He was our Representative to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, one of our Representatives to the first Methodist Oecumenical Conference, and represented both the British and Irish Conferences at the General Conference of the Canadian Methodist Church. In 1890 the Victoria University, Coburg, conferred on him the degree of D.D." For ten years he acted as Treasurer of our Home Mission Fund, and for the last twenty years of his life as General Secretary.

REV. GEORGE VANCE, D.D.—"He twice attended the British Conference as one of our Representatives—in 1873 as our Vice-President. For eight years he was the efficient Secretary of our Foreign Missionary Committee and then for eighteen years the Ministerial Treasurer of the Children's Fund.

REV. WILLIAM NICHOLAS, D.D., for many years President of the Methodist College, Belfast, was also (we believe) President of the Church in Ireland about forty years ago. Unfortunately, further infor-

nation regarding Dr. Nicholas, though assiduously sought for, has not been forthcoming in time for printing.—Ed.

REV. CHARLES HENRY, CROOKSHANK, M.A.—For nearly twenty years he was Treasurer of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund. He was twice elected Chairman of Districts, and in 1889 filled the position of Vice-President of the Conference. He became notable for his literary work. His greatest achievement was the writing of the "History of Irish Methodism," and this monumental work, in three volumes, has been, and is likely to continue, the standard authority on the history of our Church.

REV. HUGH McKEAG—Is held in the highest esteem and affection of his brethren. He was elected Vice-President in 1918 and filled that office with ability and dignity. In 1924 he was appointed Ministerial Treasurer of the Hibernian Auxiliary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and filled that office with great advantage to the cause of Overseas' Missions, of which he was a notable advocate.

REV. OLIVER McCUTCHEON, D.D., LL.D.—He was associated with the Home Mission Fund from 1861 to 1891, either as Secretary or Treasurer. In the year 1881 he was elected a member of the Legal Hundred. In the same year he was appointed, with Dr. Crook and Dr. Ker, to visit America in the interests of Irish Methodism. In 1882, and again in 1890, he was called to the responsible position of Vice-President of the Conference. In 1891 he was appointed President and Theological Tutor of the Methodist College, Belfast, in succession to the late Dr. McKay.

REV. JAMES D. LAMONT.—Careful and capable as a Superintendent, he filled with admirable ability the posts of Chairman of Districts, Representative to the British Conference, Secretary of the Conference, and finally, to the satisfaction of all, was elected in 1908 to the office of Vice-President. Among the outstanding services which he rendered to his Church and generation, two are worthy of special mention; his brilliant success in the organization and completion of the Twentieth Century Fund, and his long continued and practical interest in everything pertaining to Christian work among the young.

REV. WILLIAM CORRIGAN.—As a connexional leader he will best be remembered. He was Chairman of several Districts; a member of the Legal Hundred; and almost as well known in the British Conferences as in our own. In 1934 he was elected Vice-President, and President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

REV. WILLIAM A. BRACKEN.—"As a member of many Connexional Committees, as Chairman of District Synods, as Secretary, and subsequently Treasurer, of the Hibernian Auxiliary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, as Representative to the British Conference, to the Canadian General Conference, and to the Oecumenical Conference of 1901, and as member of the Legal Hundred he fulfilled his official duties with exceptional distinction. When the Conference wished to appoint him to the Vice-Presidency, he refused on account of the uncertainty of his health.

The name of Rev. W. A. Bracken has been appended to the list for reasons which will be obvious to the reader.

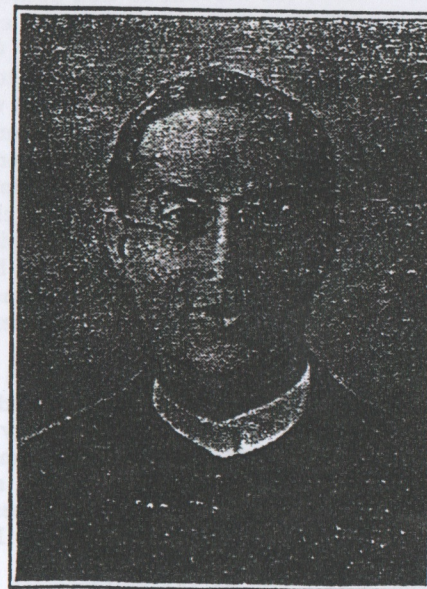
Only two of the fourteen Presidents are alive to-day—our President, Rev. C. H. Crookshank, and Dr. McKeag.

Two of the late Dr. Vance's grandchildren, Mrs. J. Travers Wolfe, "Norton," and her brother, Mr. R. B. Vickery, "The Cottage," Skibbereen, are prominent leaders in our church life to-day.

The late Rev. J. W. Parkhill's son, Rev. R. A. Parkhill, is at present superintendent of the neighbouring circuit, Dunmanway.



Rev. C. H. Crookshank, President,
Methodist Church in Ireland, 1937-38.
Ministered in Skibbereen 1909-12.



Rev. William Corrigan, President
Methodist Church in Ireland, 1934.
Ministered in Skibbereen 1905-08



Robert S. Wolfe, Circuit Steward
time of church renovation, 1897.
Father of present Circuit Steward