

**A HUNDRED YEARS OF
RICHMOND METHODISM: THE
STORY AS TOLD AT THE
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
1899**

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A Hundred years of Richmond Methodism: the story as told at the centennial celebration of 1899 by Edward Leigh Pell

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EDWARD LEIGH PELL

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TRINITY CHURCH.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF
RICHMOND METHODISM

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1899

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

In the selection of material for this volume the aim has been, first, to preserve all of the historical and biographical information presented at, or brought to light by the Centennial celebration; and second, to publish such other Centennial matter of related character as the remaining space would allow.

While it is to be regretted that many good things spoken at the Centennial have not found a place in these pages, it will be readily perceived that the publication of all the addresses would have destroyed the unity of the volume and neutralized its historical flavor.

The main object has been not to tell the story of the Centennial celebration, but rather to record the deeds, principles and methods which made such a celebration possible.

INTRODUCTORY.

The idea of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Methodism in Richmond originated with the Rev. Joseph T. Mastin, pastor of Trinity Church. It was fitting that Trinity, "the old mother church," should take the initiative in such a movement, and to this end Mr. Mastin, early in the autumn of 1898, brought the matter to the attention of his Official Board, and it was referred to a committee for consideration. At the next meeting of the Board the committee recommended that the Methodist Preachers' Meeting of Richmond and Manchester "be requested to adopt some plan to properly celebrate the Centennial of Methodism in Richmond;" whereupon Mr. Charles W. Hardwicke offered as a substitute a resolution committing Trinity Church to the inauguration of the movement, and inviting the coöperation of all the Methodists of the city.

The substitute was adopted, and on the evening of January 26, 1899, at the invitation of the Board, nearly two hundred representative Methodists of Richmond met at Trinity Church. After a delightful social hour, during which supper was served by the

ladies of the Church, the meeting was called to order by the pastor, and the Rev. R. T. Wilson, presiding elder of the Richmond District, was requested to take the chair. A brief discussion revealed the fact that the entire Methodist community was in hearty sympathy with the movement, and on motion of Col. John P. Branch it was unanimously resolved "to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Methodist Church in this city." A committee composed of C. W. Hardwicke (chairman), Rev. J. T. Mastin, R. H. Hardesty, W. H. Allison, George L. Bidgood, John P. Branch, J. Thompson Brown, H. Seldon Taylor, J. S. Brauer, F. W. Graves, H. C. Osterbind, C. E. Brauer, A. Maupin, E. M. Redford and W. F. Hudson was appointed to take the matter in hand, and to report at a meeting of the pastors and official members to be held at Centenary Church in March.

This committee met shortly afterwards at the residence of Col. John P. Branch, and appointed the following committee on programme: C. W. Hardwicke, Rev. J. T. Mastin, Col. John P. Branch, Dr. W. V. Tudor, Captain W. H. Allison, Dr. W. G. Starr, H. Seldon Taylor and Dr. J. Powell Garland. At this meeting it was resolved to invite the churches of Manchester, Barton Heights and Highland Park to unite with the Richmond churches in the celebration.

The gathering of the pastors and official members at Centenary on the evening of the ninth of March