

DEDICATORY SERVICES OPEN WITH INSPIRING ADDRESS

Rev. Thomas Corwin Iliff Preaches the Morning Sermon to Large Congregation.

MANY ASSEMBLE TO HEAR FORMER MISSOULA MAN

Eloquent Talk Is Given by the Speaker and at the Close of the Meeting a Liberal Donation Is Given to the Building Fund of the New Church.

Promptly at 9:45 yesterday morning, Professor E. C. Hall struck the first chord on the new organ in the new Methodist church and thereby formally opened the dedicatory services of the day.

and builds up his strength that he may follow the plow, make the earth productive and worship God. The wooden plow of our forefathers, has been replaced with a plow of steel.

Perpetual Advancement.

"The teacher dies. His theory is accepted, but the pupil gathers a little more truth and when the pupil dies he has approached a little nearer the truth. I would not give up the plain, simple facts witnessed by the apostles for all the theories and fancies from the earliest down to the latest.

"When Paul and Silas were cast into prison and their feet put in the stocks, Silas might have turned to Paul and said: 'Surely God would not have let them cast us into this filthy dungeon.' Now what happened? Instead of reviling God they must have held an old-fashioned Methodist meeting.

Savanarola and Luther.

"Savanarola was condemned to die and placed upon the gallows. His body was then cut down, burned and the ashes were flung to the winds. Probably all hell thought that he had been disposed of, but on his four-hundredth anniversary the entire world did honor to his memory.

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NEW CHURCH OF METHODISTS IS DEDICATED FREE OF DEBT AMID SINCERE THANKSGIVING



THE NEW CHURCH

Splendid warrant was there for the fervent thanksgiving which characterized the closing meeting of the Missoula Methodists last night. The beautiful new church home of their society was theirs, indeed. Every penny which was necessary to complete the payment for the building and its furnishing had been raised.

Yesterday was a day long to be remembered. It was a day pregnant with significance to the Methodist society but, more than that, it was a day with a deeper meaning for the city of Missoula. The Methodists have shown their neighbors what can be accomplished by earnest, united endeavor; they have demonstrated the force of the pull-together. Yesterday morning there remained an indebtedness of more than \$15,000 upon the building, which was dedicated in the afternoon.

The fervent eloquence of Dr. Thomas Corwin Iliff, the inspiring call of Dr. W. W. VanOrsdel, the convincing logic of Dr. C. L. Bovard, the earnest example of Dr. Jacob Mills—all these had worked upon large audiences all day and the response was magnificent. The scenes at the meetings yesterday will never be forgotten by those who witnessed them. Nobody who was present at the new church yesterday will question the declaration which was made last night by Dr. Iliff, that the day was the most important in the history of Missoula. The day had set a pace.

A Perfect Day.

Under perfect conditions the dedication day of the new church dawned yesterday morning. There were clear skies overhead; there was bright sunshine all around; there was inspiration in the bracing atmosphere; there was encouragement in every condition. The weather man had done his part and had made good the prediction of the pioneer preacher who, the day before, had forecasted "an old-time Montana day" for the dedication.

There was a fine attendance at each of the three principal services of the day; there was enthusiasm responsive to the eloquence of the speakers who pleaded for a church free of debt and who dedicated the beautiful structure to the worship of God; there was happiness all day, which deepened into glad rejoicing at the night service and which found expression in the eloquent prayer of dedication delivered by Dr. Iliff and in the joyous singing of dear old "Brother Van," both veterans in the service and both early pastors of the Missoula church.

Eminent Guests.

There had come to Missoula to participate in the services of the day, many friends of the church from many parts of the state. Besides Dr. Iliff and Dr. Van Orsdel, there was Dr. Jacob Mills, the former presiding elder, whose deep interest and personal generosity had made possible, very largely, the building of the church. There was Edward Laird Mills, his son and the present presiding elder of the district which his father in former years had served so well. There was Rev. C. L. Bovard, earnest worker in Montana Methodism and eloquent preacher. There were pastors of neighboring Methodist churches, and there were the pastors of the other churches of the city—different in denomination, but happy in the sentiment of fellowship which prevailed the occasion. There were laymen from Stevensville, from Hamilton and from other Montana towns. It was a notable gathering and it is an incident of more than ordinary interest that the last \$100 which took the subscription total over the mark was made by one of these visitors from out of the city.

Fervent Words.

There was splendid fervor throughout the three meetings; the raising of money enough to make possible the consecration of the church—free of debt—was but an incident in the day. There was sincere thanksgiving for blessings received and there was earnest promise of devotion to the cause to which the new building was dedicated. There was glorious music;



THE OLD BUILDING

there was such preaching as will be remembered always by those who heard it; there was a psalm of gladness in every heart; there was a hymn of rejoicing upon every lip.

But it was not sensational; there was nothing of the spectacular about it. The silvery-haired old man who was the day's leader, the man who had come to Missoula four decades ago—a stripling—to found a Methodist church in the wilderness—this man gave the keynote to the day. His earnestness and his eloquence hallowed the occasion. And that other veteran, the Jonathan of the other David, supported with his zeal the appeal of his lifelong friend and associate. It was an appeal which was directed to the heart and to the soul—sincere, inspiring and encouraging—and its theme ran through the entire day's proceedings.

The Dedication.

To Missoula, considered as a whole, the afternoon service was perhaps the most significant of the entire program of dedicatory exercises for the new church. Then it was that the other denominations of the city gave formal expression of their satisfaction in the achievement of their sister church. The keynote was congratulatory, not only for Methodists but also for every person in the community, irrespective of his creed, because of the blessing promised by such improved equipment.

A large audience assembled for the afternoon service, the largest Dr. Iliff said that he had seen for a long time in church on a Sunday afternoon.

Fellowship.

The brief organ recital given by Professor E. C. Hall was heard in reverent silence and thoroughly appreciated. Rev. Edward Laird Mills, D. D., presided and introduced the pastors of other denominations who were to have a part in the program. Of these there were seated on the platform Rev. E. E. Burtner of the congregational church, Rev. H. S. Gattley, rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Rev. C. E. Allen, Jr., of the Emmanuel Baptist, Rev. Harold Griffin of the Calvary Christian, Rev. J. N. Maclean, D. D., of the First Presbyterian, Rev. C. H. Gibbs of the Methodist church South.

The anthem, "I Was Glad When They Said," was in keeping with the spirit of rejoicing and well rendered by the choir of 30 voices, which Mrs. Charles Perry has had for weeks under efficient and rigorous training, looking forward to singing in the new church.

"In the Beginning"

Rev. Dr. Van Orsdel, called upon for a seven-minute talk on the subject "In the Beginning," began in the genial personal strain that assures him a welcome everywhere. Briefly recounting the history of the beginnings of Methodism in western Montana he paid high tribute to the one member who remains here today of the seven who joined the first Methodist church in Missoula. Dr. Van Orsdel said: "Dr. Iliff and I first met at Sheridan, Montana, in August, 1873. We were just returning from the Rocky Mountain conference which met in Salt Lake City. He made the trip on return by private conveyance. He was then on his way to Bozeman, where he was appointed pastor. He

was accompanied by Rev. F. A. Riggin, who had been appointed pastor to Virginia City, Bannack and Sheridan circuit. I was appointed as Junior preacher. Dr. Iliff and I, during the few years that followed frequently had revival meetings together and made long journeys mostly by private conveyance through this, then new territory. Our love has been that of David and Jonathan. In 1876 he was appointed superintendent of the Utah mission.

A Meeting.

"Brother Bennett, your pastor, and I first met in the home of Dr. Iliff, in Salt Lake City, in January, 1882. After some conversation, Brother Bennett and I went off into an upper room; after consultation and prayer, he decided to come and take up the work of ministry in Montana, and soon after that was appointed to Walker,ville and other suburbs of Butte city. Since that time he has been most incessant in his labors and his work under God stands out as a star of the first magnitude.

To Bitter Root.

"My first visit to Missoula was in September, 1877. This was the year of the Nez Perce Indian war. Nearly all the settlers of this, then new territory, were in a state of excitement and commotion. I came on horseback from Bannack, up to the Big Hole battlefield; I had a friend with me. Because of a severe storm, we were forced to lay over there two days. From there we came through a snowstorm to the Lockwood ranch near the head of Bitter Root valley; thence to Skalkaho and on to Corvallis, reaching there on Saturday evening. It was soon noised abroad, and we had a large audience on Sunday. William Hall was pastor of our church then. On the battlefield we found the bodies of five citizens from the vicinity of Corvallis and Skalkaho, who had been killed in battle. They had been exhumed from the places where they had been buried. Among them was Linn Elliott, Campbell Mitchell, Mr. Lockwood; also Mr. Armstrong. It was also true of nearly all the soldiers killed in the battle, their bodies had been exhumed. A party was organized immediately at Corvallis and went up to the battlefield and brought back the remains. When they returned we held the funerals of the five persons at once at Corvallis, as these men were all well known. About all the settlers of the Bitter Root valley attended this service. A detachment of soldiers under Lieutenant Van Arsdale went up immediately, reburied the soldiers and brought the remains of Captain Logan with, I think, two others, back with them. These were days when it took courage on the part of these early settlers to arise to the great emergency that confronted them.

In Missoula.

"On this trip I held my first service in Missoula. Of the seven members that Dr. Iliff had taken into the church in 1871, but one remained in the town. That one was the lone member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Missoula up to March month, 1882, as the others had removed. That one is still with us. Her consistent life, her devotion, her deeds and acts of kindness are known wherever she is known.

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EVENING SERVICE CLEARS LAST BIT OF CHURCH DEBT

Impressive Sermon Is Followed by Raising of Funds and Celebration of Victory.

UNBUNDLED ENTHUSIASM AROUSED BY DR. ILIFF

Rev. Jacob Mills Preaches Eloquent and Then Appeal Is Made for Financial Aid—Total Is Made \$16,000—Service of Song and Praise Is the Last Thing.

The thousand people who were in the audience at the evening dedication exercises of the new Methodist church will have reason to ever remember the services; and thousands more in Missoula will be thankful over its outcome. It was the meeting of the day that put the crowning touch to the opening of the new church to the service of God, for through the splendid leadership of Dr. Iliff the edifice has been turned over to the people of Missoula free from debt—everything paid for from basement to belfry peak.

There was never a more enthusiastic and earnest meeting than that in the new church last evening and when the time came for Dr. Iliff to make the announcement that it would be necessary to raise practically \$2,500 before he would allow the dedication exercises to continue, the audience held its breath. Dr. Iliff had faith in the people and he breathed inspiration into the throng that went straight to their hearts and then crept around the pocketbooks and in a little over half an hour after he took the platform \$3,202.50 had been pledged to add to that which came at the other two services of the day and which made up a grand total of \$16,000. As the last \$100 was subscribed there was a demonstration which exceeded anything ever witnessed at a religious meeting in Missoula and the dome of the new temple was nearly lifted from its moorings with the volume of the voices which entered into shouts of "hallelujah" and the hymns of praise which came from the audience.

A Grand Meeting.

It was a great meeting from beginning to end. It lasted from 7:15 o'clock, when Professor Hall sounded the first note of a 15-minute organ recital, until 11 o'clock and it was half an hour later than that before the audience had dispersed, hundreds remaining to shake hands with Dr. Iliff and the other visiting clergymen who assisted in the dedication, those who have been more actively engaged in assisting with the building plans and the work of raising the funds, finding a chance then for the proper expression of their feeling over the successful outcome. Dr. Iliff said during the service that yesterday, judged from the proper standpoint, was the most important day Missoula ever saw. He meant that it marked the opening of a new era in the building of churches in the Garden city and showed what could be done if the task were undertaken in the proper spirit and pursued faithfully to the end. There were few in the audience who did not agree with him and all voted credit for having been responsible for a big share of the day's successful outcome.

After the organ recital, a hymn by the congregation, an eloquent opening prayer by Rev. J. G. Ross and the anthem by the choir. Rev. Thomas Hardie led in reading the scripture lesson. A ladies' quartet, composed of Mesdames McAllister, Inch, Perry and Valentine, then sang, "Abide With Me."

Dr. Iliff.

Dr. Iliff then took charge of the last and what proved to be the most wonderful part of the closing dedication.

and the offertory solo was excellently rendered by Miss Shannon.

Rev. Jacob Mills, in opening, the sermon of the evening maintained that there had been a conspiracy in his selection to undertake the last sermon of the day, but that he had attempted in vain to get Dr. Iliff to take his place. His text was from the first verse of the fourteenth Psalm: "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.' . . ." He divided his text under three heads. First—"The fool: who is he?" Second—"Hath said, 'There is no God.' Third—"That there is no God." He developed each theme under the text eloquently. He explained that the meaning of the term "fool" as used in the text was not one of unsound mind; but rather one who was capable of grasping a clear understanding of things, but who failed or neglected to act along the lines which he knew was right and best. An unbeliever is a fool, he said, for although he might not say as much his life and actions indicated that he would not admit that he knows there is a God. Action, he said, determines the character of the individual.

"The fool says there is no God in the face of the strongest evidence to the contrary," said the speaker. "Nature answered an argument along this line by pointing to the heavens and asking who made the stars. Let us also look for a moment at the great solar system which has been moving on its appointed way year after year and age after age since God first said, 'Let there be light.' Geologists also tell us that the earth gives every evidence of having been made as the habitation of man and to follow the steps of its preparation through its early stages for man's coming, but adds conviction to this argument. We ask, 'Who planned and prepared it?' The fool answers, 'There is no God.'"

The speaker brought out example after example of science and learning which goes to refute the "fool's" declaration and dwell at length upon the Bible and how it had been preserved down through the ages; how every shaft aimed at its destruction had only landed in the breastworks surrounding it and made it more difficult of attack. He gave the teachings of the Bible as the fundamental cause for the greatness of any people and any nation and gave graphic pictures of the wonderful things to be seen on every side as the result of its influence; of the power of the teachings of Christ to reform the sinner and its action over the hearts of men. In closing he made a strong appeal to the unconverted to turn and seek for the great free pardon; to come into the light of God's eternal truth and to give thanks for the gift of the Bible, illuminated by the gift of Christ, God's Son.

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Class Ad History

CLIV.—OBTAINING NEEDED HELP. All that is necessary when you need help is to state your need in a class ad. There are thousands of people in western Montana who have the habit of reading The Missoulian's classified page. Some one of them will be the one you need; you may be sure of that. By way of illustration:

WANTED—GIRL FOR SECOND work in kitchen. Call Y. W. C. A. 107 East Cedar.

It took but one insertion of this little ad to find the girl who was wanted. She was waiting for the ad and as soon as she saw it she hastened to obtain the position. There are hundreds of these one-day Missoulian class ads. That shows how well-read is the classified page. Not always does the result come the first day, but it comes quickly and it proves that there are many people reading the classified page every day. It costs but one cent a word to get a class ad. If you're out of work and want a job, it costs you nothing.



Mr. Inch is president of the board of trustees of the Missoula church and has been a leader in the building movement.