

## OUR CANADIAN CHURCHES, V.

## St. James Methodist Church, Montreal.

While Methodism had early taken root in Newfoundland, New York and other American provinces, its entrance into Canada was of comparatively late date, and no visit of any minister of that body to Montreal is on record until 1803. True there had been a society in existence for several years before the end of the last century, but it had been numerically so weak and financially so poor that it had been unable to take any successful steps towards church organization. The Rev. Joseph Sawyer, of the New York conference, visited the city in the above-mentioned year: evidently more as an agent or missionary than with a view to a settled pastorate, for he stayed but a short time. In 1804 the Rev. Samuel Merwin came on, but in like capacity as Mr. Sawyer and with a similar result. The following year, however, a church was formed, under the charge of Rev. Martin Ruter; it consisted of only 12 members, increased to 20 by 1806. Mr. Ruter stayed but a short time and was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Coates, who was quickly followed by Rev. Nathan Bangs. Up to this time meetings had been held in a rented room, but 1808 saw the erection of the first Methodist church in Montreal; the building being in St. Sulpice street near St. Paul; when sold a few years later it passed into the hands of the Roman Catholics, and although altered by them into offices the walls and most of the structure remained intact until a year or two ago. From 1808 to 1816 the roll of membership showed a steady though slow growth, the war with the United States affecting but little Montreal religious bodies. It proved, however, the means of emancipating the little society from the control of the New York conference, and placing it in direct connection with the British Wesleyan Church—a step with which the great majority of the Montreal Methodists were in hearty sympathy. In 1818 the Rev. Robert Lusher assumed the ministerial charge; this proved the beginning of a long and most successful pastorate, the rapid growth of the congregation necessitating the erection of a larger chapel within three years of his appointment. This was situated on St. James street, at the corner of St. Francois-Navier, on the site now occupied by the Medical Hall. It was a neat building, of the Grecian-Doric order; it, with the ground, cost £4,550 and could seat 1,200 persons. Our space forbids us following the growth of this parish for the next 24 years. It had seasons of great religious revival, and opened several mission chapels in the suburbs, which drew off more or less of the numerical and financial strength of the congregation. Its membership, in spite of these calls, grew steadily, and in 1845 had risen to 770—far too large for their religious home. Then was erected, and opened with great ceremony, the venerable church on St. James street, demolished but two years ago and giving place to the imposing block known as "The Temple Building." Its seating capacity was from 2,000 to 3,000 persons; its cost was about £13,000; and within its walls was enacted much of the public religious life of Montreal for 40 years, most of the large denominational meetings during that period having been there held. Its usefulness had been great; but when it had survived all contemporary down-town churches, and when the rapid growth of the city west and north caused many of its most zealous adherents to be put to no little inconvenience to attend its services, it became necessary to replace it with a building in the residential part of the city. The large block of land on St. Catherine street, between Alexander and City Councillors streets, was secured and the building, of which we to-day show engravings, was commenced in 1887, the corner-stone being laid by the late Hon. James Ferrier on the 11th of June of that year.

The structure is a noble one, being equalled by few, if any, places of worship throughout the Dominion. Its dimensions are ample: Length, 253 feet; width of transepts, 106 feet; height of great tower, 200 feet; height of lesser tower, 140 feet.

The pulpit is ably filled by the Rev. James Henderson, his assistant being the Rev. R. P. Bowles, M.A., B.D. The musical services are of a high class, and the furnishings and appointments are unexcelled. St. James Church may truly be called the cathedral of Canadian Methodism.

The Duchess of Albany is giving practical proof of the great interest she takes in ambulance work, by going through the final examination of the St. John's Ambulance Association. The Duchess gained certificates for the preliminary examinations for nursing and first aid to the injured.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## An Ungenerous Slander.

To the Editor of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED:

SIR,—My attention has been called to a New York letter in your issue of March 7th, signed by Mr. Douglas Sladen, in which he has seen fit to make a passing reference to Canadian politics, and mention, with apparent satisfaction, that the "disgraceful plot of Wiman, Attorney-General Longley, the *Globe*, &c.," had been seen through, even by the New York *Herald*. Such imputations are frequently made by writers who are permitted to air themselves under the cover of newspaper leaders, and in this form I am compelled to be silent and trust to the good sense of the public to weigh them at their just worth. But when a gentleman in Mr. Sladen's position ventures over his own signature to utter such an explicit charge of baseness, now that the elections are over and no ulterior object can be suspected, I feel it due to myself to speak.

I made two visits to the United States within the last few months. One was made last August and was purely for pleasure and recreation. While there I frequently saw Mr. Wiman, and conversed with many prominent public men in the United States on Canadian affairs, but I made no public utterance in that country during my whole visit, except in the form of occasional newspaper interviews. But the charge that I was engaged in any "plots" whatever, much less "disgraceful plots," is a foul calumny, for which Mr. Sladen has no authority whatsoever. The other visit to the States was made in January and February of this year. I went in response to invitations to attend three public banquets given by commercial bodies. One was the Board of Trade of New York, whose banquet was on the night of January 29th, and which was tragically terminated by the death of Secretary Windom, and as he was the first speaker, no other speeches were made. The second was the Merchants' Association of Boston, whose annual banquet on the evening of January 30th I attended, and made a speech, which was fully reported. The third was the banquet of the Commercial Club of Louisville, Kentucky, held on the evening of February 3rd, which I attended, and at which I made a speech, which was also fully reported.

I challenge the most malignant enemy to find one word uttered by me on these occasions incompatible with the respect due to my own country, or which threatened in any way the honour, integrity and independence of Canada. I never forgot for one moment that, as a Canadian public man, my first duty was to my own country, and that I should be not only unworthy the respect of my countrymen, but would earn the contempt of the people of the United States, if I pronounced a syllable untrue to the interests of my own country.

I engaged in no "plots." I never said a word in public or private respecting Canadian affairs, which I would not be willing to repeat in the presence of any British Minister or Her Gracious Majesty herself. I did endeavour to create an intelligent interest in Canada among the American people, and I did aim to put an end to all irritating differences and produce a feeling of friendship and goodwill; but that I was seeking to undermine Canadian independence or to hand the country over to American control by any underhand scheming is utterly and absolutely false, and not a tittle of evidence can be found to justify such a malicious slander.

In the published speeches which I made in the States not a syllable can be found that is untrue to the allegiance I owe the Canadian people. If a single expression can be found Mr. Sladen will be good enough to produce it. When interviewed by the New York *World* and other great dailies it will be found that I told them flatly that political union with the United States was not thought of seriously in Canada, and that the flippant talk about it, which appeared in American newspapers, and was occasionally indulged in by unthinking public men, was the chief cause of the unpleasant feelings which sometimes prevailed in Canada and which retarded the growth of friendly relations between the two countries. I did everywhere advocate the most intimate trade relations between the two countries, because I believed these to be for the mutual advantage of both countries, but this I did in an open and frank manner and without the semblance of "plots."

I hope Mr. Sladen used the insulting expression thoughtlessly and without a full sense of its gravity, and under the

influence of current misrepresentations made by the party press. When Mr. Sladen landed in Nova Scotia, I believe for the first time, I met him at the wharf and entertained him to the best of my ability at my own house, because of his reputation as a poet and a man of letters, and do not think it is a generous return for him to deliberately charge me, without a shadow of authority, with the grave crime of treason.

Yours, &c.,

J. W. LONGLEY.

Halifax, March 16th, 1891.

To the Editor of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED:

SIR,—Nothing has given me so much pleasure for many a day as Attorney-General Longley's printed disclaimer of any sympathy with the Farrer letters.

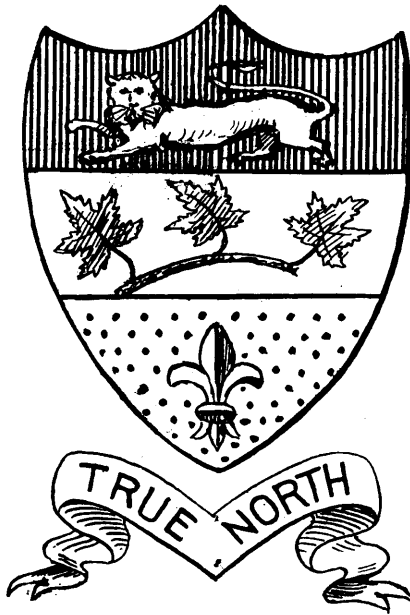
I am delighted to retract any expression or insinuation which implicated him in it.

When I was in Nova Scotia Mr Longley was my host and friend. The only shadow that came between us was my suspicion that he was not 'Canadian' enough.

Now that he comes forward and acknowledges—nay, protests that he loves "the maple on the corner of the old Red Rag" as well as Sir John himself, even this shadow is removed, and I apologise to Mr. Longley with absolute sincerity. The pain expressed in Mr. Longley's very gentlemanly letter has pained me also a great deal. I hate insulting anybody, much less a man at whose table I have sat. My remarks were only intended for the Judases concerned in that document drawn up to show how Canada could be starved into submission—to gain a party advantage. For such men I do not wish to conceal my contempt.

Again, I must express my delight that Mr. Longley has come out definitely and publicly as a 'Canadian,' and tender him every apology.

DOUGLAS SLADEN.



To the Editor of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED:

SIR,—I submit the enclosed design for a Dominion coat-of-arms, in view of the general dissatisfaction with the present museum of vegetables, buffaloes, &c., which does service as our shield. This one is based upon the Quebec coat, which contains the best and simplest combination of historical emblems for all Canada, except that the maple leaves ought to be the central idea for the larger purpose. I have therefore transposed the quarterings so as to put the maple leaves in the place of the lion, and the fleur-de-lis below. The motto, however, might be any other than that here suggested.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

The present Parnell-National conflict in Ireland recalls a well known verse:

There were two cats in Kilkenny,  
Each thought there was one cat too many;  
They quarrelled and fit,  
They scratched and they bit,  
Till instead of two cats there wa'nt any.

The English Conservatives, doubtless, hope that history will now repeat itself on an enlarged scale.