

ment for the purpose, in the original plan of the town. It was erected on the site where St. James' Cathedral now stands. Col. (afterwards Sir) Roger Hale Shensler, who commanded the garrison, took a lively interest in the enterprise, and ordered the soldiers to render what assistance they could. As the *corps mechnique* of that day were not numerous, their aid was found very acceptable; particularly in raising the frame, which was very heavy. The contract for the building was taken by Mr. Joshua Leach; and the most active promoters of the important undertaking were Chief Justice Scott, William Allan, D'Arcy Boulton, sen., and Duncan Cameron, Esqs. The population of the town in 1807, was between 800 and 900; the average attendance at church, exclusive of the ministry, was 150.

The congregation does not appear to have been properly organized till the year 1807, from which period there are brief minutes of vestry proceedings. The following is the first that occurs (in the order of time) on the minute book, now in the care of J. Harris, Esq., senior churchwarden of St. James' Cathedral.

"Extract from an act of the legislature of the Province of Upper Canada, chap. 11, 1st session, 1st parliament.—

"Section 7, from an act to provide for the nomination and appointment of parish and town officers within the province.

"And also, to choose and nominate in manner aforesaid, two fit and discreet persons to serve in the office of town wardens for such parish, township, reputed township, or place; but as soon as there shall be any church built for the performance of divine service, according to the use of the Church of England, with a parson or minister duly appointed thereto; then the inhabitant householders shall choose and nominate one person, and the said parson or minister shall nominate one other person, which persons shall gratuitously serve the office of churchwardens, and that said churchwardens and their successors duly appointed, shall be a corporation to represent the whole inhabitants of the township or parish, and as such may have a property in goods and chattels of or belonging to the said parish, and shall and may sue, prosecute, or defend in all presentments, indictments, for or on behalf of the inhabitants of the said parish."

In accordance with the foregoing enactment the church, which was commenced in 1805, being completed, a meeting was held at Gilbert's tavern, in the town, on the 1st March, in the year 1807; at which D'Arcy Boulton, sen., and William Allan, Esqs., were chosen wardens—the former by the incumbent, the latter by the parishioners.

Another meeting was called to dispose of the pews, by the following notice in the *Upper Canada Gazette* or *Canadian Oracle* of the 20th February, 1807.

"The inhabitants and subscribers to the church are requested to meet at the church on Wednesday, the 13th day of March next, at 12 o'clock in the forenoon, when the pews will be publicly sold to the highest bidder, subject to a ground rent of eight dollars per annum for a double, and four dollars per annum for single pew, payment by the pew-holder quarterly, to and for the uses and benefit of the church.

"By order of the Committee.

"GEORGE O'KILL STUART"

There is no minute of the result of this meeting, but from the clerk's statement of pew rents submitted to a meeting held on the 20th of June following, the income from this source appears to have been about £85 per annum.

The first appropriation from this fund was the payment of the salary of Mr. Hunt, the clerk,

who, from the formal receipts entered on the minutes, to which his own signature is appended, appears to have been most promptly paid.

In those early days the minutes show that there were (as, alas, there are still, defaulting pew-holders, whose delinquencies are duly recorded, as well as the measures adopted to ensure payment. Upon the principle of the fable, at first the lenient method, of "letting the dues lie over till the next meeting," was adopted. But the evil continuing, a sterner race of churchwardens succeeded, and we find after a lapse of years, the following stringent resolution, proposed by a legal gentleman, who seems to have taken a lively interest in church matters, from the fact of his having repeatedly served as churchwarden, viz., "That after the clerk has demanded the pew rent *once*, without receiving it, he shall leave a notice that unless it be paid within ten days to the churchwardens, the persons remaining in arrear shall be sued for the amount due, and five per cent allowed for the trouble of collecting."

Among the items in the account of expenses for the year 1810, we find the following, which certainly indicate the day of small things, viz., £1 6s. for 500 nails for enclosing the churchyard, £3 15s. for clearing the ground at the west end of the church of stumps, while the whole charge for the year "for fuel, and wine for the communion," appears only to have amounted to £1 7s. 6d., Halifax currency.

The original Church of St. James' was a plain, wooden building, about 40 feet wide, by 50 feet long, unpainted, and devoid of any ecclesiastical pretensions. The entrance was at the west, the chancel in the east, in front of which stood the pulpit, surmounted by a sounding board, with reading and clerk's desks. The pulpit and its adjuncts were the gift of Lieut. Governor Gore, and cost \$100. The interior of the church was divided by two aisles and comfortably pewed. At the west end was a gallery which, with a couple of rows of seats beneath it, were free, and generally occupied by the military.

On the north side of the church gate stood a small building, probably (from the circumstances of its having a chimney, and standing at an oblique angle to the church) the house of some squatter, before the lot was required for church purposes. This building was used as a shed for fuel and horses; and the residence of His Majesty's representative in those days was not more remote from the church than the present government house, yet either owing to the state of the roads, or the absence of state, the coachman, after depositing His Excellency and family on the church steps, used to detach his horses from the carriage, and either securing them to the fence or under the shed, as the weather happened to shape, (after the fashion of our country friends,) joined his master at worship.

The following is a list of those gentlemen who served as churchwardens during the incumbency of the Rev. Mr. Stuart, viz., D'Arcy Boulton and William Allan, Esqs., for 1807-8, William Allan and Thomas Ridout, Esqs., for 1809; William Allan and Stephen Jarvis, Esqs., for 1810; Duncan Cameron and Alexander Legge, Esqs., for 1812.

The following pew-holders and others appear to have attended the church up to this period,—President Russell, Judges Cochran and Boulton, Solicitor General Gray, Receiver General Selby, Christopher Robinson, George Crookshank, Wm. Chewett, J. B. Robinson, Alex. Wood, William Wilcocks, John Beikie, Alexander McDonnell, Anderson, Marcheson, Bright, O'Keefe, Humphrey, Chief Justices Elmsly, Osgoode, Scott, and Powell, Attorney General Firth; Secre-

tary Jarvis; General Shaw, Colonel Smith, D'Arcy Boulton, William Allan, Duncan Cameron, John Small, Thomas Ridout, William Stanton, Stephen Heward, Alex. McDonnell, Donald McLenn, Stephen Jarvis, Esqs.; Captains McGill and Oivins; Drs. Macaulay, Gumble, Baldwin, and Leo; Mrs. Macdonald; Messrs. St. George, Dennison, Hamilton, Bingle, Leach, Legge, Duggan, Playter, Brooke, Cawthra, Scadding, Ketchum, Cooper, Ross, Jordan, Kenrich, Hunt, Higgins.

It is amusing to see how harmoniously the most discordant elements blended together in public worship, and how thankfully they availed themselves of the ministrations of the church, when they alone were at their command.

In 1811, the Rev. Dr. Stuart, of Kingston, was released from his labours, and his attached flock made application to the Lieut. Governor that his son, the Rev. G. O. Stuart, should be appointed to the vacant charge, which was acceded to.

In the following year, the vacancy at York was filled by the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Strachan, Rector of Cornwall. It is said this appointment was strongly recommended by the late lamented Sir Isaac Brock, who perceived in Dr. Strachan qualifications which peculiarly fitted him for the appointment in those eventful times.

Entering on his ministerial charge at the beginning of the war, he found ample field for those sterling qualities which, through a long and most useful life, have marked his character. The town of York, being the capital of the province, excited the cupidity of the Americans, and from its position, formed the centre of operations, exposed it to the ravages of war, and entailed burdensome duties on its rector. On the capture of the town by the enemy, it was mainly through his instrumentality saved from destruction by fire, while the resolute and faithful manner in which he discharged his duties in ministering to the sick and wounded, and in protecting the defenceless families from a rabble soldiery, often at the risk of his life, is gratefully remembered by the descendants of the sufferers. In this good work he was efficiently aided by the late Alex. Wood, Esq., whose attention to the poor and the sick in hospital was unremitting. For a considerable time, the church was converted into an hospital for the sick and wounded, and the casual stroller in the grounds around St. James' Cathedral little dreams how many a gallant soldier and sailor rests beneath its well-trimmed green sward—the frail monuments erected by comrades to their memories having long since mouldered away. One of these arrested the writer's attention in boyhood, and the homely expression of the poor sailor's faith and hope has since remained fixed in his memory. It was the ordinary painted head-board erected to the memory of a petty officer in the royal navy, attached to one of the ships in commission on the lakes, who probably died of his wounds in the church hard by. Beneath a ship at anchor were the following lines.—

"Here at an anchor I do lie.
With many of our fleet;
But once again I will make sail.
Our Admiral Christ to meet."

The courage and energy displayed by the rector of York in every emergency during the war was very conspicuous, and will doubtless be elsewhere recorded. The prominent part he took in sustaining that noble and most useful association, "The Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada," deserves special notice here. This was a voluntary association, intended chiefly "for the humane purpose of alleviating the distress which