

CHRONICLE

OF THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

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The Parish Church of Saint John.

II.

Of the furniture in "Old Trinity," there only remains to mention the plate for Holy Communion, which was presented by King George III. It is made of silver, and consists of two flagons, one chalice, two patens, and an alms dish, and on each piece is the inscription "G. R." together with the Royal Coat of Arms.

Dr. Byles continued his rectorship till his death, in his eightieth year, on March 12th, 1814, though for seven years previously the duties of the parish had, for the most part, been discharged by his assistant, the Rev. George Viets, who was for many years afterwards Rector of Digby. A monument to his memory was erected by his wife in Trinity Church. His successor was the Rev. George Pidgeon, who was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1762, and was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. In early life he was an ensign in the Rifles, and went with his regiment to America on the breaking out of the Revolutionary war. At its close he went to Halifax, where, at the instance of Bishop Inglis, he was admitted into Holy Orders. He was first of all Rector of Fredericton, in succession to Dr. Cooke, and removed to St. John on his appointment to the rectorship of the parish in 1814. His health soon failed, and as he had no curate, the church was for a time closed. After a ministry of only four years he died on May 6th, 1818, and was buried in the Old Burial Ground, where his tombstone may be seen and upon which is the following inscription :



UNDER THIS STONE
ARE PLACED
THE EARTHLY REMAINS OF THE
REV. GEORGE PIDGEON,
FORMERLY OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
DUBLIN.
LATE RECTOR IN THIS PARISH
AND ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSARY
IN THIS PROVINCE 23 YEARS.
HE DIED MAY 6TH, 1818,
AGED 57 YEARS.

The fourth Rector of the parish was the Rev. Robert Willis, D. D. He was a Chaplain in the Royal Navy, and came with his ship to Halifax in 1817. At the request of Bishop Inglis he came to St. John and officiated in Trinity Church, during the ill health of Mr. Pidgeon ; and his services being so acceptable, he was, on Mr. Pidgeon's death, appointed Rector and Ecclesiastical Commissary of the Bishop. During his rectorship, considerable progress was made in the extension of the Church. Up to this time Carleton, was a part of the parish of St. John, though as early as 1804, a small church, called St. John's Chapel, had been built there, and services held in it until 1822, when St. George's Church was built. In 1825 it was set off as a separate parish. In 1824, a church was also built in the northern section of the city, called St. John's Church. Archdeacon Best, of Fredericton, preached on the occasion of its being opened for Divine Service. His text was taken from Psalm exxii, 7, "Peace be within thy walls." Dr. Willis had as his curate, Rev. Abraham Wood, who came out from England in 1812. In 1822, Mr. Wood