

## BETHLEHEM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WESTMOUNT.

### ITS INCEPTION.

On the 19th of January, 1896, a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Sunday-school of the Congregational order, was held in Elm Hall, Elm Avenue. This was the first meeting held in connection with this place of worship. Shortly after the organization of the Sunday-school, Sunday evening worship, conducted by students of the Congregational College, was commenced. In the meantime a committee, composed of representatives from the different Congregational churches of the city, was appointed to discuss the advisability of proceeding at once with the organization of a church. This course was unanimously agreed upon, and steps were immediately taken to secure a suitable site, and proceed with the erection of a building. After much anxious thought and search, the committee eventually decided upon the lots on the corner of Clarke and Western Avenues, and purchased, and paid for, sufficient land to accommodate church, school and parsonage buildings. It was agreed to proceed as rapidly as possible with the erection of a building that would in every way be suitable for both purposes and also in connection with this at the same time a building suitable for a parsonage, which could in after years be used as a caretaker's residence. Mr. Andrew Taylor, architect, prepared plans for these buildings, and as soon as the frost was out of the ground the work of construction was commenced. The corner-stone of the new building was laid on Saturday evening, June 13th, 1896., under the auspices of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, which was meeting in Montreal at the time. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. M. Hill, of Calvary Church. The Rev. Hugh Pedley, of Winnipeg, and His Worship Mayor Evans of Westmount, delivered addresses.

### THE CHURCH BUILDING.

The beautiful new building, which is an ornament architecturally to the town, was opened for public worship on Sunday, 25th October, 1896. The Revs. E. M. Hill, Dr. Evans, and Prof. Warriner, preached the opening sermons. The building will accommodate with church parlor, 450 persons, and is seated with comfortable folding chairs.

The church is not cursed with a "dim religious light," but has plenty of God's sunlight, coming in through delicately tinted windows. The church parlor is separated from the auditorium by folding doors, thus giving added accommodation to the church proper. In the parlor the meetings of the various societies are held, also mid-week worship, and the infant class of the Sunday-school.