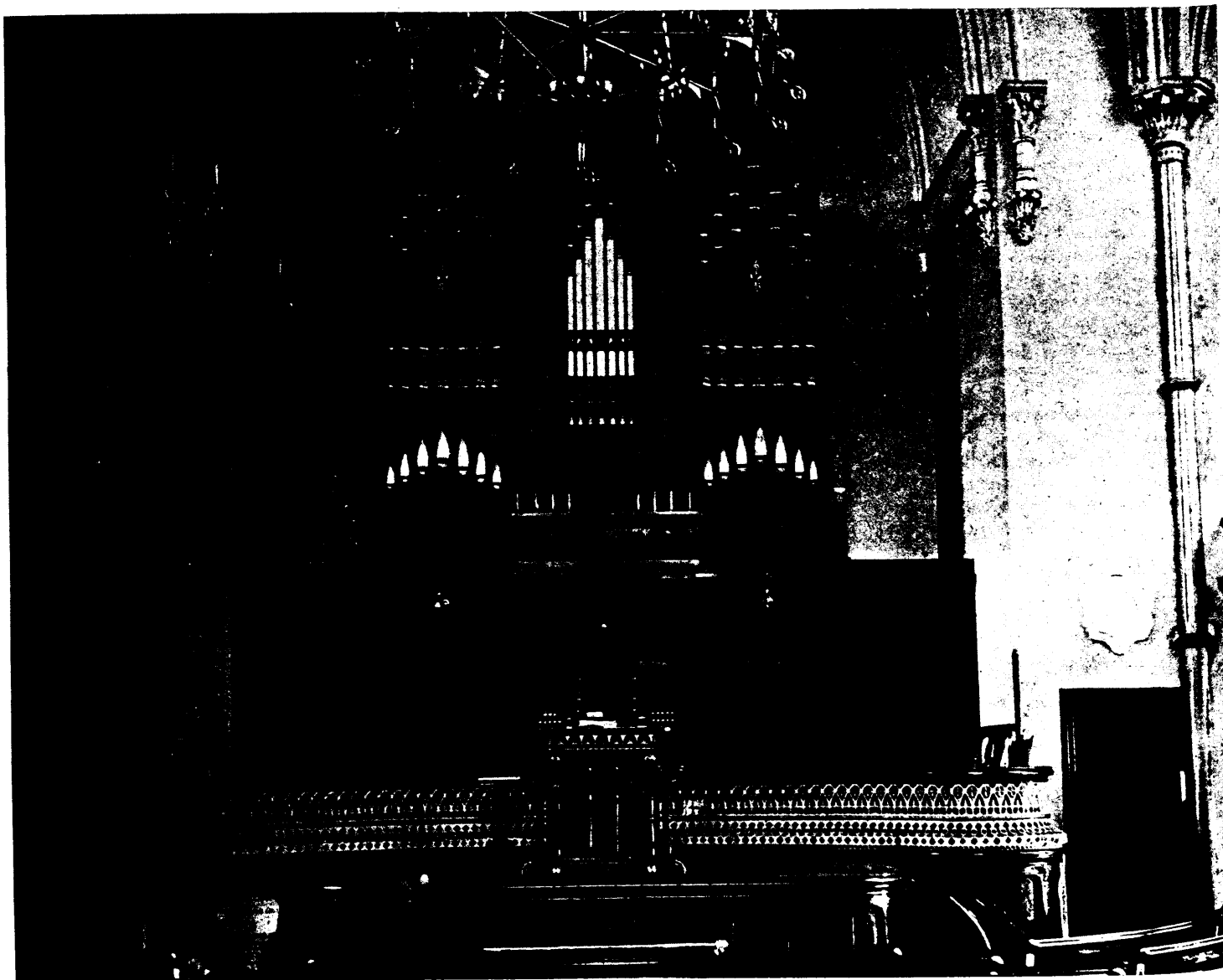




CHOIR AND ORGAN.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N.B.

(See a so. page 507.)

St. Andrew's Church, St. John, N.B.

We present our readers with views of St. Andrew's Church, St. John, one of the most imposing, beautiful and complete structures in the Maritime Provinces. It was completed in March, 1879, having been built from plans prepared by Messrs. Langley, Langley & Burke, of Toronto. Its entire cost was in the neighbourhood of \$70,000. The main portion of the church is of pressed brick, but its splendid front and steeple facing Germain street are of cut sandstone. The interior resembles somewhat that of Crescent street church, Montreal. It is possessed of a magnificent organ and elaborate stained windows. The church is lit by electricity, and both for preacher and congregation affords one of the most delightful audience chambers in the country. The present pastor is the Rev. L. G. Macneill, M.A., who was inducted about five years ago. Mr. Macneill's previous pastorates were Maitland, N.S., where he was settled from 1872 to 1878; and St. Andrew's church, St. John's, Nfld., which he occupied from 1878 to 1886. He is a graduate of Edinburgh University, and studied theology in Princeton, N.J. The congregation to which Mr. Macneill ministers is the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the Province of New Brunswick. On the church front are the figures 1784,

carved in the stone of the gable; they remind the observer of the founding of St. John by the United Empire Loyalists in the previous year. Some of these Loyalists were Presbyterians, who secured a church site from the Crown. The foundation of a church was laid, but owing to scarcity of funds was never completed. The land has always yielded a rental which forms part of the church's income at present. Thirty years later a new site was purchased, and in 1814 old St. Andrew's, the first Presbyterian church in New Brunswick, was opened for public worship. It occupied the site of the present church, and, down to the time of the great St. John fire, in 1877, was one of the landmarks of the city. Mr. Macneill has had among his predecessors some honored names. The pioneer of New Brunswick Presbyterianism, or rather the first settled New Brunswick pastor, was Dr. George Burns, uncle of the present gifted pastor of Fort Massey, Halifax, and of one of the most distinguished of Scottish Presbyterian families. He was a man of warm heart, burning zeal and eloquent tongue, and labored with great success from 1817 to 1831. The Rev. Robert Wilson succeeded him and remained in the pastorate until 1842. The next four years found the kirk in charge of Rev. Andrew Halkett, after whose retirement

to Scotland, in 1849, there came from that country the well known Dr. William Donald, who ministered to a loyal and loving congregation for twenty years. His assistant, the Rev. Robert Cameron, became his successor. On his resignation at the end of five years, Rev. William Mitchell was called from St. Matthew's, Montreal. It was during his pastorate that the old church was burned and the present edifice constructed. His five years' ministry was followed by a three years' pastorate of Dr. Thomas Smith, now Secretary of Queen's College, Kingston. On Dr. Smith's resignation in 1886, the present pastorate began. Thus, if we date from the procuring of the first church site, the congregation is in its 107th year; if from the erection of old St. Andrew's, in its 76th year. There is an old gentleman, Mr. John Wishart, now in his 92nd year, a member of the kirk session, who has been a member of the church for 72 years, has sat under the ministry of all its pastors, and is still a regular attendant on the services of the church. During the period referred to, this old historic church has become the mother of most of the other Presbyterian churches in the city. It does not show any signs of decay. Never indeed was it more prosperous than to day. It is growing vigorously among the churches, and while it looks back with much satisfaction over its long and useful career, it has also a keen eye and ready hand for the work that is yet future. The present pastor, besides being an able and fearless preacher, is a vigorous writer, and has at different times contributed interesting articles to various periodicals.