

TURY OF...

# The Church of England

IN THE

## County of Kent

Being the Text of an interesting Address Delivered by Judge Woods to the Young People's Society of Christ Church.

At the request of our highly esteemed Rector, I have prepared an address for the happy commemorative occasion of the erection of Christ Church, on its 40th anniversary.

To review the annals of a parish, covering one half a century and more, is not an unimpaired pleasure, for the retrospect in some aspects must necessarily be suggestive of sorrow and pain, while in others it affords ground for much congratulation and encouragement to future effort and service, knowing that our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord.

While in this instance we shall have to extend our parochial horizon beyond the present county of Kent and even beyond our national boundary, we shall, while finding a very primitive state of things, be brought to see quite an advanced civilization in this western world at that early day. By Wolfe's glorious victory at Quebec on the 13th of September, 1759, the capitulation of Montreal on the 3rd of September, 1760, and the surrender of Detroit on the 15th of September, 1760, the British Empire in America came to us, extending to Hudson Bay on the north, the Ohio River on the south, and the Mississippi on the west.

Kent has a remarkable and exceptional history. It formed a part of the District of Hesse, which Lord Dorchester, the governor-general by proclamation, issued from the castle of St. Louis, in the City of Quebec, on the 24th of July, 1782, set apart as the fifth of five districts into which he divided Canada. Governor Simcoe, in his proclamation from Kingston, on the 15th of October, 1792, divided Upper Canada into nineteen counties and named the District of Hesse the Western district. Kent, as one of these, and the last one named, included all the country from Hudson Bay to the Ohio, and Mississippi, and Detroit and Mackinac were the seats of our courts. Detroit was the county town of Kent, and at Detroit the members of Kent to Parliament were elected. Here we had our courts and courts as this was nearly one hundred years ago, the settlement of Detroit by Cadillac, commemorated on so grand a scale in Detroit last July, there were there a good portion of the army, merchants, doctors and clergy, but for a time no lawyers, except to say, how the community got along without these ornaments to society, I will leave you to judge, as I am too partial to the fraternity to express an unbiased opinion. Here were the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, and they had their church, and my good mother, who was born at Grosse Pointe above the city, was baptized there—as her mother before her had been, and all her sisters were, for they were Catholics, while her father and brother were Protestants. There were many Protestant families there, and the Protestant merchants were numerous and active. As there was always a strong military force, no doubt an army chaplain was among them.

The first ordained clergyman of the Church of England in this part of the province and west of what is now Niagara was the Rev. Richard Pollard who was made deacon in 1801 and ordained priest in 1802, by the Bishop of Quebec. We see him in many capacities in our county. He was sheriff of Essex and Kent in 1799, and Registrar of the Surrogate Court in 1794, and then judge of surrogate in 1801. In July, 1796, when the exodus of the British from Detroit took place under Jay's treaty, of those who preferred the meteor flag of England to the Stars and Stripes, he came over with them, and as we see, was made deacon the year he was appointed judge of surrogate for Essex and Kent. On his ordination he was appointed missionary to Sandwich and Amherstburg and no doubt discharged his missionary work throughout both counties, and extended it to his former home, (Detroit), where we read of him as officiating in the Protestant Episcopal church there and where his memory is cherished by a memorial window in St. Paul's church of that city. He continued Rector of Sandwich till his death, and his tablet in the Sandwich church, says he died in 1824. I had the honor to be baptized by him.

I have no doubt that looking back at his active and varied official and ministerial life, that he did the work of the lay reader, and officiated at baptisms, burials, marriages and other offices of the church, during his stay in Detroit, Sandwich and Amherstburg, and the regions thereabout; and his patriotism and goodness are testified to by his having been made a prisoner of war in 1812, and of the kindly way in which he is mentioned by the Americans for his treatment of the American soldiers who were captured by the Indians and others.

It is interesting to learn how scant were the Church's influences of that day. At the first session of the Legislature of Upper Canada, 1792, the Hon. Richard Cartwright reports as follows:—"Although the two Lower Districts have had each of them a Protestant clergyman since 1798, it is but a few men he since (the Nassau, or Home) District has been provided with one; and the Western District in which the settlement of Detroit is included, is to this day destitute of that useful and respectable order of men, yet the town of Detroit is, and has been since the conquest, inhabited for the most part by traders of the Protestant religion, who reside there with their families."

"In the Western District there are no other clergy than those of the Church of Rome."

The late Bishop Strachan says:—

"That down to the close of the war of 1812-15 there were but four resident clergymen or missionaries of the Church of England in all Upper Canada, and that till 1818 there was but one clergyman, of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, and that in 1827 there were but two."

### THE MORAVIAN CHURCH.

It is interesting to note here that on the 8th day of May, 1792, the memorable year in which our government of Upper Canada was organized, Kent enjoyed the great privilege and blessing of having a branch of the Moravian Church established within her limits. The governor granted a portion of the township of Orford to them. As is well known this is the oldest Protestant church in the world, being three-quarters of a century older than Luther's. It is an Episcopal church, and has a beautiful liturgy similar to our own, and which no doubt, did so much towards making our people religious, intelligent, loyal, law-abiding and Sabbath-observing people that they have always been and, please God, will continue to be, a credit to the Province, and a credit to our country. It was first read in our courts in Detroit and Mackinac and continued to be so through many years.

### GOVERNOR SIMCOE'S PROCLAMATION.

Another adjunct to the church in Kent was the celebrated proclamation of that noble Christian and churchman, Governor Simcoe, for the suppression of vice, profaneness and immorality, addressed to the people of the Province, and which no doubt, did so much towards making our people religious, intelligent, loyal, law-abiding and Sabbath-observing people that they have always been and, please God, will continue to be, a credit to the Province, and a credit to our country. It was first read in our courts in Detroit and Mackinac and continued to be so through many years.

"Whereas, it is the indispensable duty of all people, and more especially of all Christian nations, to preserve and advance the honor and service of Almighty God, and to discourage and suppress all vice, profaneness and immorality, which if not timely prevented may justly draw down the Divine vengeance upon us and our country. And His Majesty, having for the promotion of virtue and in tenderness to the interests of his subjects, given laws for punishing all laws made against blasphemy, profaneness, adultery, fornication, polygamy, incest, profanation of the Lord's Day, swearing and drunkenness, to be strictly put in execution in every part of the Province, I do, therefore, direct, require and command the peace officers and constables of the several towns and townships, to make presentment upon oath, of any of the vices before mentioned, to the justices of the peace in their section, or to any of the other temporal courts. And for the more effectual proceeding herein, all judges, justices and magistrates, and all officers concerned for putting the laws against crimes and offenses into execution are directed and commanded to exert themselves for the due prosecution and punishment of all persons who shall presume to offend in any of the kinds aforesaid; and also of all persons that contrary to their duty, shall be remiss or negligent in putting the said laws into execution. And I do further charge and command, that the proclamation be publicly read in all courts of justice on the first day of every session to be held in the courts of the present year, and more especially in such of His Majesty's courts as have the cognizance of crimes and offenses; recommending the same to all Christian ministers of every denomination, to cause the same proclamation to be read four times in the said year, immediately after divine services in all places of public worship; and that they do their utmost endeavor to incite their respective auditors to the practice of piety and virtue, and the avoiding of every course, contrary to the



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pure morality of the religion of the holy gospel of Jesus Christ.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at the Government House, Navy Hall, the eleventh day of April, in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and in the thirty-third year of His Majesty's reign.

J. G. S.

When the change took place from Detroit, Kent lost her county town, which she never recovered till 1850, when by proclamation Chatham was gazetted as such and still remains so. Sandwich became the county town of the Western District and both it and Amherstburg as a garrison town had a fair measure of church service through the Rev. Mr. Pollard and those who followed him. In 1821 the Rev. Dr. Stewart, afterwards Bishop of Quebec, visited Amherstburg and Sandwich, as did Bishop Monahan in 1833, by whom I was confirmed, his jurisdiction extending to the Pacific Coast. Chatham was laid out by Governor Simcoe in 1795, but apart from building a block-house, gun boats and other military appointments, nothing was done. It began to be settled in the thirties, besides a score or two and of course, the inn, there was little or no village up to 1835 or so when I first saw it. The steamers run by Mr. Duncan McGregor made the chief business and the first church built in Chatham was St. Paul's, built on McGregor's street, called after him and running by his property and was put there no doubt, because we were his family and their connections they made the chief part of the congregation apart from the surrounding farmers. Besides McGregor's mill was there, and his house, a most habitable one, the burial ground was there too.

Christ church, as you see, was not the original church in the town. St. Paul's was built in the early twenties, 1820, 1822, on lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Government survey by subscription among the inhabitants. I have seen a copy of the subscription which bears date 7th January, 1819, and these are the words of it—"We, the undersigned subscribers, promise to deliver flour, wheat or corn to the amount of the sum affixed to our names at the current price on the River, on or before the 1st day of June next, to be delivered at Most Rev. John Doherty, Esq., or Chatham Mills, which sum of money and produce are to be applied towards erecting an Episcopal Church in Chatham. The subscribers are:—John Doherty, Esq., \$500, Lewis A. Macoe \$5, Jacob Doherty \$5, Elizabeth McCreae \$5, Ann Smith \$10, Isaac J. Doherty \$5, John Peck \$5, John Doherty \$5, John Crow \$10, paid to John Doherty." A parsonage was erected on the north-east of the property on McGregor street. The fact that the patent granting these lots to the church did not issue till 1833 has given rise to a good deal of misunderstanding as to when the church was built, but it is now clear that the land was taken possession of and the church built before the patent issued by 10 or 12 years. It was granted to the Rev. Thomas Morley, first resident missionary, in 1837, from the Rev. John Doherty, Esq., on 29th April, 1833, by King William the 4th.

We have good reason to know that Mr. Morley was in Chatham perhaps only as a missionary, as early as 1822, he was sent to Chatham by the Indians who was long a member of this congregation at the house of his relative, Mr. McGregor. Mr. Morley, according to Canon Richardson, came to Chatham in 1822 and remained with them until 1826, and came to Chatham in 1827, and remained till his death at Amherstburg, in 1837, from which fact I remember him well, as he occasionally came to Sandwich to preach. He was a man of huge size and I have a distinct recollection how freely he drew his surplus upon the temperature of the Sandwich church, and especially in the winter with its large stove which stood near the chancel. I rather think he was sent the first year, by the Indians by the New England Society which, up to the present day, maintains its mission there, and which was a mission as early as 1785 to the Mohawks of six nations and which first came in 1826.

Mr. Morley was succeeded in 1837 by the Rev. Thomas Brook Fuller, who remained here and then went to Toronto and ultimately became Bishop of Niagara. This gentleman I knew intimately in later years while rector of Thorold and St. George's, Toronto. As his middle name indicates, he was not only a Brook but a rock upon which to rely. While here he had the church ground, which had been granted for the purpose of the church on King street in 1833 on the property now Dr. Duncan's residence, exchanged for what is known as the Glebe between Adelaide and Prince and Murray and God freests, some five and one-half acres, for which the patent was issued on the 6th day of September, 1837. He left in 1840, and was the means of getting Miss Ann Smith to emow the Dover church.

In 1840-41 the Rev. Oliver J. Wiggins, of Seymour, U. C., succeeded Mr. Fuller as a missionary. His stay was short, I do not know him personally, but on coming to Chatham one day by steamer from Sandwich to go to Aldborough, in Middlesex, as a law student, I found myself unable to get there, there was neither stage nor ferry. On being told that the Rev. Mr. Wiggins had left his horse here for sale I went and bought him and did my work and took him back to Sandwich, when I was rewarded for my aid to the missionary by buying his horse, for I put him up at a raffle and had the good fortune to make the highest bid, on putting him up again at the request of his subscribers, won him the second time and then withdrew and let him go to some one else. Of this good gentleman I have never heard since. In 1842 he was succeeded by the Rev. William Henry Hobson, whom I knew slightly and

who continued in charge till 1849, when he lost his life by exposure on the plains between this and Sandwich. He was a refined and cultured gentleman, possessing a fine library, of which on its being offered for sale at auction by the administrator at Windsor, I bought several valuable works, which helped me much in my subsequent reading and influenced largely my line of study.

He was followed by the Rev. Francis William Sanders, who came to this country from Ireland as a missionary and who for the previous four years had been travelling as such along the Lake Shore road between Dunwich, Middlesex, and Mersa, Essex. He came to Chatham in July 1849, which was most acceptable to him. He bore the prestige of a name distinguished in English History, alike in Church and State, in Literature, Travel and Science. Edwin Sanders, Archbishop of York 1519-1588; Sir Edwin Sanders, son of the Archbishop 1561-1629, Politician and Author, and closely connected with our colonies in America. George Sanders, brother of Sir Edwin, was a traveller and translator and contributor to Geography and Ethnology, and in his own person, Mr. Sanders illustrated much of his hereditary instincts. He was fond of gardening, of horses and of shooting, and here could indulge all his tastes with great satisfaction to himself and pleasure to others—he acquired a good property in the neighborhood of the church, erected a comfortable house, soon had trees, fruits and flowers in abundance and with his gun not only provided himself with game but with the taste and skill of the sportsman and artist, filled his handsome cases with the finest of our native birds and animals. His marriage soon followed and his life in Chatham seemed to be all that he could wish. In 1860, through his friend and patron Bishop Cronyn he was offered one of the three degrees of D. D. at the disposal of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which he accepted, but for which he had to pay fees amounting to nearly £100 and thus became entitled to be and was called, Doctor. It is a mistake to say as the Canadian Chatham states that Dr. Sanders was in person to Canterbury for his degree, he neither went to England nor Ireland after coming to Canada. In 1860 he was appointed Archdeacon of Huron by the late Bishop R. Benjamin Cronyn, first Lord Bishop of Huron. Dr. Sanders was of commanding presence, of popular manners, with a kind genial fund of humor and anecdote, a sound Evangelical preacher and a most instructive expositor of scripture—the Atonement—and kindred doctrines. He was an excellent reader and a smooth agreeable speaker in the pulpit, always leaving his flock of interest and instructed on the subject of his exposition. He never varied from the same plain, clear, unadorned and logical line of address and without the least change from ritualism or High churchism, and used to tell the story of the Archbishop of Cashel who, when asked why there was so little of this in Ireland, said: "They had too much of the real thing there to make up the imitation." His relations with Christ Church becoming unsatisfactory

Continued on Eighth Page.

### RENTS HIGH IN CALCUTTA.

Suggestions to speculators to Invest in Apartment Houses.

U. S. Consul Patterson, in a letter to the State Department from Calcutta, says there is a fine opportunity for investments in hotels and apartment houses in Calcutta. "The congested condition of the European quarter of Calcutta is such that rents are extravagantly high, and various propositions are being discussed for its relief, among others the building of suburban residences, several miles out, to be reached by electric tramways; but this would not prove satisfactory, as the people here prefer to live in the city. If a building company could secure capital would come here and erect first-class apartment houses, of six or eight stories, not more, as the ceilings must be high on account of the hot climate, with elevators and all modern improvements, they would be taken by Government officials and merchants at a large rental.

"The people here are too conservative to start such an enterprise, but those requiring apartments would soon see the advantages over ordinary dwellings in cheaper rates and in requiring fewer servants; besides, as many residents go to the hills during the hot months, the rooms could be let in charge of janitors more easily than houses.

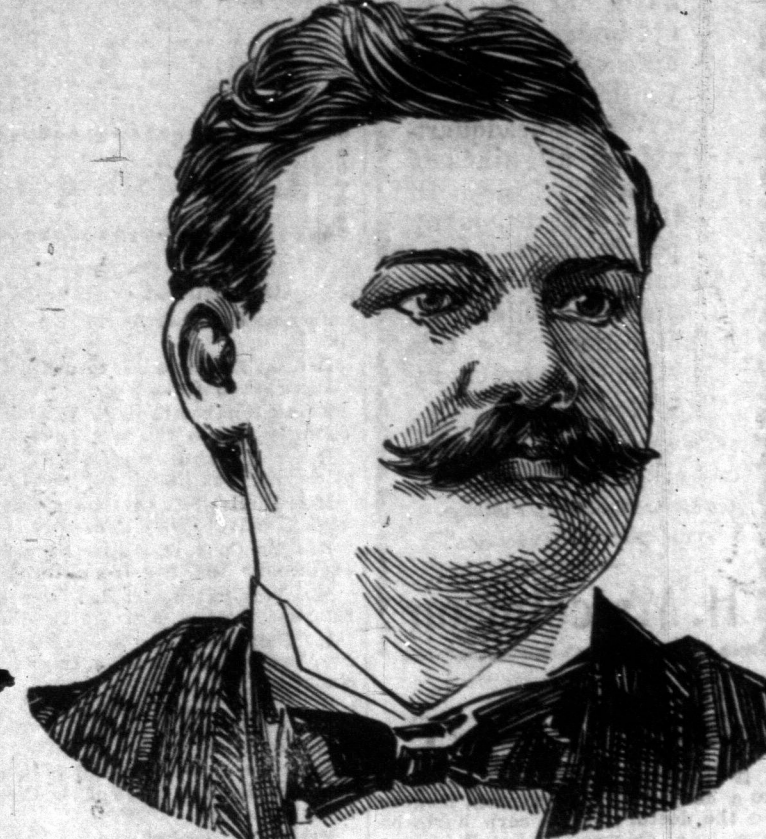
"Where ground is as costly as it is in the European quarter of Calcutta, on account of its limited area, apartment houses properly constructed would bring the desired relief and be paying investments. A dwelling house, such as is regarded first class, of two or three stories, with a good sized compound (ground), rents for \$2,000 to \$3,500 per annum.

"This consular general, that occupies a flat on the second floor, seventy by ninety feet, with eighty steps to reach it and no elevators or other modern improvements, rents for \$1,350 per annum. I mention these instances to show what rents are here, and they will be higher unless some way is provided to relieve the situation, as the city is growing rapidly. Calcutta is a city of about 800,000 population, the capital of British India. The residence of the viceroy, as well as of the officers of the secretariat and the officials connected with the government, with thousands of employees, but without one first-class hotel. During the cold season the native princes and wealthy citizens of India visit Calcutta, besides tourists from every part of the world; hotels are so crowded that it is almost impossible to secure rooms at any price, and tents are put on the roofs for the accommodation of guests. I know of no place where first-class hotels are more needed or would bring better returns on the investments than in Calcutta."

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