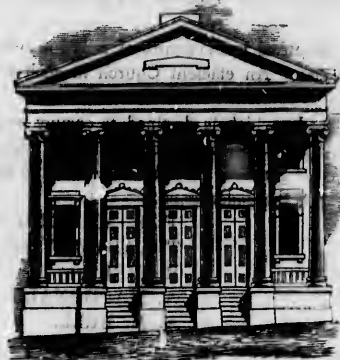


GOSFORD STREET CHURCH, MONTREAL.



The neat and commodious Church-Edifice represented above, was erected in 1843-4, for the use of the Second Congregational Church, Montreal. This Church was formed February 12th, 1843, by fifteen members dismissed for that purpose from the First Church, which was then, as now, under the charge of Rev. H. Wilkes. Rev. J. J. Carruthers was the first Pastor of the new Church, and his labors were so highly acceptable and useful, that it was determined to erect an Edifice of an attractive kind, in a prominent position. In 1846, Dr. Carruthers removed to Portland, Maine. His loss was severely felt. For more than two years, every effort to obtain another Pastor was unavailing. Many of the congregation went to other Churches, and many others left the City. Then came the awful commercial crisis of 1847-8, bringing almost universal ruin. Very few were left to hope and pray for a revival of the cause. But their prayers were heard; in September, 1848, the present Pastor was brought among them, and after a year's labor, through which not a few were brought into Christ's fold, was ordained. The Church has since gone on, in spite of many difficulties within and without, slowly but steadily increasing, 50 members having been added in four years. Many times it has seemed "ready to die," but as often God has quickened it again. It was never in so promising a state as now.

The greatest drawback to the full success of the Church has consisted in their not being Proprietors of the Place of Worship, dwelling in it, but as in "their own *hired* house." It was at first held by three members of the body, but fell since into the hands of one. The connection of these parties with the property has involved them in a heavy loss. But the time seems to have arrived, when the Church should acquire the Building for themselves. Since Dr. Carruthers' removal, all the expenses of the Church, amounting to about \$1000 per annum, have been borne by the people themselves, though only by dint of great effort and self-denial. But the Colonial Missionary Society (of England) has lately made a grant in aid of the Pastor's support, upon the people pledging themselves to do their utmost to secure the property. The original cost was about \$14,000; it was recently appraised at \$12,000; and has now been offered to the Church for \$9,000, of which \$2,000 are required by December. This offer has been accepted, and the friends of the cause will raise this year upwards of \$1600. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid in instalments ranging over eleven years. The Church are anxious to anticipate these payments, and at once to reduce the debt to the lowest possible amount. For this purpose they make the present appeal to other Christian communities.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GROUNDS ON WHICH IT IS URGED:—

1. This Church has manifestly enjoyed the Divine presence and blessing, and never more than of late.
2. It has struggled hard with great difficulties, though having neither great numbers (only 60 members) nor wealth, and therefore deserves to be encouraged.
3. If once in secure possession of the Church-Edifice, there is no reason to doubt that the cause will be increasingly and permanently prosperous.
4. The purchase now made is universally considered most favorable, as to price and terms.
5. The erection of a House of Worship with funds derived from the sale of pews, as is the custom in the U. S., would be impossible in a state of Society so different. The sittings in this Church are all free, the expenses being met by voluntary contributions.