

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

• • AND MISSION NEWS • •

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, MAY, 1895.

No. 107.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

• No 107--ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

WHEN, twenty years ago (1875), the city of Toronto grew rapidly towards the west, it seemed right and fitting for the authorities of the Church in that day to establish a new parish, to be known as St. Philip's, with St. Stephen's on the north and St. John's on the south. The old historic house of "Bellevue," the picturesque old house of "Heavilytree," and the more modern mansion of "Englefield," were the three nurseries of the infant church. On the site of the present church there stood a little cottage belonging to the Tolfree estate, and in that little cottage (a sketch of which, by the kindness of a parish artist, can be seen in the vestry at any time) the first services of this parish began. Seventy-nine people assembled on that first day to sing to the glory of God praise or the birthday of the new parish. A short time after, or at the expiration of a little more than one year, it was found that the cottage was wholly inadequate to accommodate the congregation that assembled for worship. The building was enlarged. Still the congregation could not be accommodated, and accordingly in 1876 a chapel schoolhouse, now called the parish lecture hall, was built, costing \$5 000. The infancy of the parish was watched over by the Rev. G. H. Moxon, who was appointed to it from the Church of the Ascension, Toronto,

but at the expiration of some two years, or a little over, he relinquished the charge. Returning to the motherland, he was given a living there, which he afterwards resigned to accept work with the Colonial and Continental Church Society, of which he is to-day the chaplain at Dusseldorf. He was succeeded by the Rev. James S. Stone, L.D., who from 1878 to 1882 watched over the childhood of this parish. He

left to fill the vacant rectorship of St. Martin's, Montreal, on the removal of Canon DuMoulin to Toronto. Subsequently he has filled the important rectorship of Grace Church, Philadelphia, and at present is rector of St. James' Church, Chicago. In the autumn of 1882 the present rector, Rev. Canon Sweeney, D.D., took charge of the parish, shortly after which, in 1883, earnest preparations were made for the building of a church, which resulted in the erection of the present edifice. It was opened for divine service on the 27th of January, 1884, by the Right Rev. Dr. Sweatman, Bishop of Toronto.

The present rector thus spoke at a recent special service

held at the dedication of a new organ set up in the church: "What has been accomplished during these twenty years? Statistics are very dry, therefore I will not trouble you with a great many, but would say that seven hundred and forty-four have received the sign of the cross in holy baptism, that three hundred and seventy have had holy hands laid upon them in the rite of confirmation, that two hundred have 'plighted their troth either to other' in holy matrimony, that three hundred and thirty-



REV. CANON SWEENEY, D.D.,
Second Rector of St. Philip's Church, Toronto.