

Our Deanery.

No. IV.—SUSSEX.

(Concluded.)

ON the 14th day of September, 1841, another Church was consecrated by John, Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, by the name of St. John Church, in Studholm. This Church seems to have been several years in building, and like Trinity Church, Sussex, to have been used for Divine services before consecration. In connection with this Church, the porch of which alone remains as a memorial of Church architecture in by-gone days, we make the following extract from the Vestry Book: "The Church near Studville having been finished (Divine service having been performed in it, though in an unfinished state, during the two previous seasons by the Rev. H. N. Arnold), and the part of the country in which the Church stands having been separated from Sussex and formed into a new Parish by the name of Studholm, it became necessary to have a separate corporation for said Church, now being a Parish Church. Accordingly, at a public meeting held on Easter Monday" [the year is not mentioned, but is supposed to be 1840], "the following persons were appointed Church Wardens and Vestry for that year, the Rev. H. N. Arnold still officiating as Minister: Mr. Peter Lyon, Mr. James Secord, Church Wardens; Mr. Samuel Sharp, Mr. Robert Sharp, Sr., Mr. Isaac Foshay, Mr. Richard Burgess, Mr. Thomas Pearson, Mr. Elias Secord, Mr. Robert Sharp, Jr., Vestry Clerk; Mr. Abraham Johnson, Mr. Henry Parlee, Mr. Gilead Secord, Mr. William Sharp, Mr. David Johnson."

At this first meeting of parishioners in the new Parish of Studholm several resolutions were passed, one of which your historian cannot refrain from copying, as it furnishes us with a good specimen of hearty Churchmanship. It reads thus: "Resolved, first of all, that our Thanks and Praises are due to the Almighty Disposer of events that He has enabled us to erect this House of Prayer to His Name, in order that we and our children after us may worship the God of our Fathers, according to the mode prescribed by the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, to which Church our attachment is due because we consider her the purest and best upon earth." It is further recorded that the thanks of the meeting were due to Mr. Peter Lyon for the spot of ground upon which the Church was built, and also to Mr. Richard Sands, merchant of St. John, N. B., for a Bible and Prayer Book which were presented by him.

The Mission of Sussex and Norton was re-arranged about the year 1849, when the Parish of Norton was placed under the charge of the late Rev. Wm. Scovil; but still with Norton taken off the area of country was far too great for one man to serve, and on the day of the eventful Saxby gale, September 1869, the Rev. Cuthbert Willis was ordained Deacon at St. Paul's Church, Havelock, and was placed in charge of the Parishes of Havelock and Salisbury, together with the hamlet of Sussex Portage.

On November 30th, 1870, S. Andrew's Day, a new Church at Petitediac, which had been begun to be built by Rev. Canon Medley and finished by Rev. Cuthbert Willis, was consecrated by John, Lord Bishop of Fredericton, and dedicated by the name of S. Andrew; and this Church has become the centre of Church life in the so called Mission of Petitediac, which is in the Parish of Salisbury.

The Church of St. John, Studholm, having fallen out of repair, at a meeting held in January 1870, it was resolved by a majority of the parishioners that a new Church should be built, all the material of the old Church that was sound to be used in the erection of the new one. The work was commenced in June 1871, and on May 14th, 1872, the present handsome little building was consecrated by John, Lord Bishop of Fredericton, by the name of the Church of the Ascension.

During the incumbency of Rev. C. P. Bliss the question of building a new Church at Sussex was frequently mooted and discussed; but owing to a difference among the parishioners on the question of the most suitable site, nothing was accomplished. In the autumn of 1872, however, it was decided to build a Church on the Parsonage Glebe, and in June 1873 work was commenced at the building. Many obstacles were placed in the way during the progress of the work; but, though in an unfinished state, new Trinity Church, Sussex, was consecrated by John, Lord Bishop of Fredericton, on S. Matthias's Day, February 24th, 1874.

In this year another change was made in the arrangement of the work, Rev. J. H. Talbot being appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese to be Missionary of Dutch Valley (now the Parish of Waterford) and a portion of the Parish of Hammond. Mr. Talbot had not laboured long in this sphere of work—about three years—when he was elected to the Parish of Springfield. The Parish of Waterford, therefore, was again placed under the charge of the Rector of Sussex for a time. In June 1878 Rev. John Lockward came from the Diocese of Newfoundland and was appointed Missionary at Waterford, where he served a little over three years.

On January 7th, 1883, Rev. J. R. deW. Cowie