

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
VICTORIA, B. C.

N the evening of Wednesday, September 5th, 1866, a number of Presbyterians gathered in the Mechanics' Institute, Yates Street, bent on serious business. They called Mr. D. M. Lang to the chair, and Mr. Thos. Russell to act as Secretary. They then proceeded in orderly manner, by discussion and resolution, to found a Presbyterian congregation under the auspices and in connection with the Church of Scotland, and under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Somerville, M.A. Five days later the infant was given the name of Scotland's patron saint, and given a temporary home in a hall on Broughton Street, which was afterwards purchased, long used for Sabbath School and other congregational purposes, leased for a school room, afterwards sold, turned into a carpenter shop, and finally torn down to make room for the Chungranes Block in 1905.

The erection of a suitable building was, from the outset, regarded as a necessity. Aided by the splendid liberality of the Church of Scotland, in 1868 the congregation purchased the lot on the northeast corner of Gordon and Courtney Streets and thereupon erected a church, which was the pride of many hearts, and which, even in a dismantled state, retains some of the lines of its original beauty and ecclesiastical dignity. The corner stone was laid with Masonic honors on August 28th, 1868, and on the 4th of April, 1869, the building was opened and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God.