

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA

IN CONNECTION WITH

Crescent Street Church, Montreal

(FORMERLY FREE CHURCH, COTÉ STREET.)

The Congregation owes its origin to the deep interest which some individuals had in the struggles of the Free Church party in Scotland, and who met together to advance Free Church principles. They were called the Free Church Committee. The Congregation was organized, and for seven years ministered to by Deputies from the Free Church of Scotland.

1844.—January 10. First Meeting of Free Church Committee. Invitation sent to REV. DR. CUNNINGHAM, then in the United States, to come to Montreal.

“ Arrival of DR. BURNS, of Paisley, the First Deputy from the Free Church.

“ May.—A call for a Minister sent to the Free Church Colonial Committee, with promise of adequate support. A call sent to REV. W. C. BURNS at the same time to come out as an Evangelist.

“ End of summer.—REV. MR. KING, of Glasgow, and REV. MR. MACNAUGHTAN, of Paisley, Deputies from the Free Church arrived. REV. W. C. BURNS, arrived about the same time and preached in St. Gabriel Street Church.

1845.—The REV. J. BONAR, of Larbert, arrived in Spring, preached in St. Gabriel Street Church till a temporary wooden church was erected on Lagauchetiere Street. He opened this Church on May 11th, and on the 25th of May inducted the first elders, viz: John Redpath, James R. Orr, David Ferguson, Evander MacIver.

“ The REV. W. ARNOT, of Glasgow, arrived about this time, and supplied the pulpit till the end of September.

“ The REV. A. N. SOMERVILLE, of Glasgow, took charge during October and November.

“ The REV. W. C. BURNS, in November, received but declined a call to labour in Canada, the Congregation promising to support him. In December he was again urged to fall in with this request, but finally declined on January 19th, 1846.

1846.—The REV. G. STEVENSON, of Pulteneytown, ministered from January to April.

“ The REV. T. MACLAUGHLAN, of Stratherrick, ministered during May and June.

“ The REV. J. MUNRO, of Rutherglen, ministered during July and August.

“ The REV. J. ALEXANDER, of Kirkcaldy, ministered from November to March, 1847.

1847.—The REV. J. B. DUNCAN, then a Student, ministered during April and part of May.

“ The REV. J. MACGILLIVRAY, of Aberdeen, opened the Church in Côté Street, on Sabbath, the 16th of May, preaching morning and evening, while the Rev. Henry Wilkes preached in the afternoon.

“ The REV. J. BUCHANAN, of Bothwell, ministered from May to October.

“ The REV. R. BREMNER, of Glasgow, ministered from November to April.

1848.—The REV. J. PATTERSON, of Tranent, ministered from May to October.

1849.—The REV. J. LEWIS, of Leith, ministered from April to August.

“ The REV. J. C. BURNS, of Kirkliston, ministered from September to February, 1850.

1850.—The REV. J. C. F. IRBAIRN, of Allanton, ministered from August to October.

“ The REV. D. COUPER, of Burntisland, ministered from November to February, 1850.

1851.—The REV. D. FRASER, ordained Pastor, August 8th, 1851.

1859.—The REV. D. FRASER, translated to Inverness, Scotland, February 3rd, 1859.

“ The REV. B. F. GREIG, ministered four months from April, 1859.

“ The REV. HUGH COBBAN, of Braemar, ministered from Sept., 1859, to Jan., 1860.