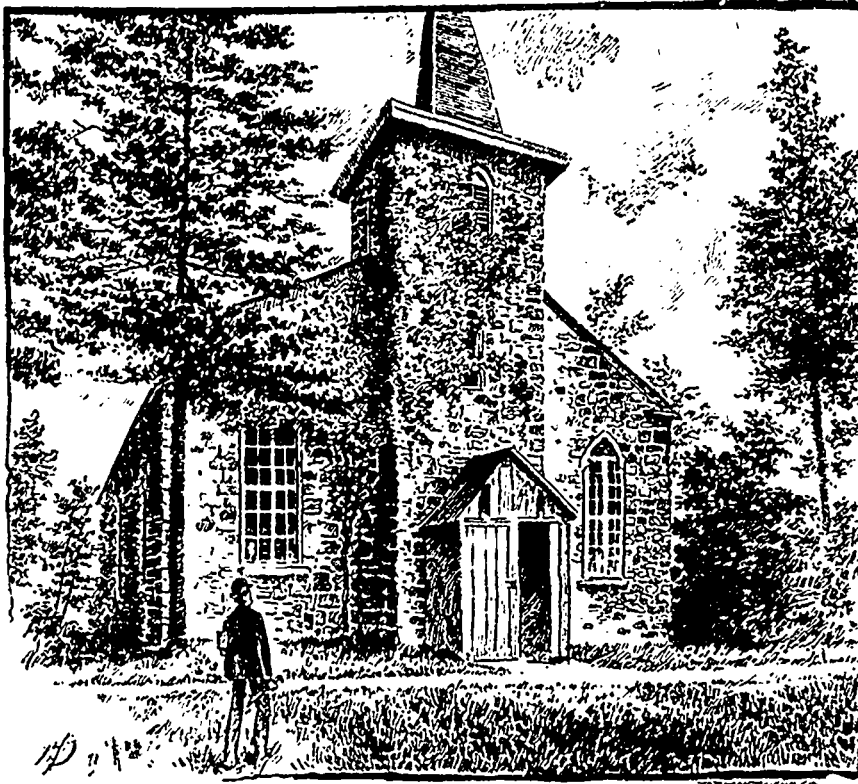




TRINITY CHURCH, CHRISTIEVILLE.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 69—CHRISTIEVILLE, DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

THE Parish of Christieville is situated in the County of Iberville, Province of Quebec, thirty miles from Montreal, extending a few miles along the River Richelieu north and south, as well as a few miles eastward from the river, the most distant parishioners residing nine miles from the church. The French Roman Catholic parish is nearly coterminous with the English parish and bears the French name St. Athanase. Both parishes have for their centre the incorporated Town of Iberville. This town is pleasantly situated on the east shore of the River Richelieu, opposite St. John's. It is the chief town of the county. A fine toll bridge and two railway bridges unite the two places; and the Vermont Central, Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways connect them with the chief cities of Canada and the United States. The scenery of this part of the Richelieu Valley is delightful, and its attractions as a summer resort are increasingly appreciated, especially on the Christieville side of the river.

This is, however, one of those English parishes in the Province of Quebec, which have suffered much through emigration. Forty years ago there

were about eighty families worshipping chiefly in Trinity Church; now there are left about twenty-five families or 105 souls. With the exception of four families these all reside in the town of Iberville, of which the whole population is a little over 1,700. From this will be seen the relative strength of the French and English population of the place.

There is some hope, however, that the decrease of numbers has reached its lowest ebb; and it is pleasing to note that, while the parish has suffered so much in this respect, the Church and school privileges remain permanent, through the endowments provided therefor. There is a prospect of an increasing number of Montreal families settling permanently in the parish.

The rector, besides his work in Trinity Church and school, is able to reach and minister to some twenty families in adjoining parishes, also to a few French Protestants. The parish school is open, of course, to all, and there are a few French Roman Catholics who attend.

The side walk leading to the church door conducts straight to the rectory a few rods farther to the right. Both are pleasantly situated on the high bank of Hazen Creek, the grounds being planted with trees, and presenting a beautiful appearance through the summer months. The cemetery is in the rear of the church.

The parish was founded by the late Major Christie, of Bleury, Sabrevois, Lacolle, etc., in the year 1841, who then donated two acres of land for church, school, rectory and burial ground, and caused to be erected thereon the present rectory and church edifice, with seigniorial school at the rear, to serve also as vestry of the church. Trinity Church was opened fifty years ago last September. Besides the land occupied by these buildings and the cemetery, another strip of land to the south of it, along Hazen Creek, extending to the public street, was set apart for ornamental ground, and Mrs. Christie afterwards gave to the church a glebe lot, completing the square of four acres more or less. These, however, form but the smallest part of the gifts of these benefactors to the parish of