

of the city, now known as Sapperton. The troops have long since taken their departure, but they left their mark permanently for good in the erection of the first English church in New Westminster.*

From the vestry books of the parish we learn the first meeting of the Church Committee was that held on Dec. 11th, 1860, in what is significantly called the rector's hut. The rector was the Rev. John Sheepshanks, now Bishop of Norwich, who was appointed first rector of Holy Trinity by Bishop Hills, then recently arrived. It is interesting to notice that, by a curious turn of fortune's wheel, we read a short time ago of Bishop Hills being instituted rector of Parham, in Suffolk, by Bishop Sheepshanks. At least three members of this first committee were soldiers, all probably now deceased, but one civilian member still remains a constant attendant at the church he saw founded, Mr. W. J. Armstrong.

Thirty-five years ago the work in New Westminster was very different from what it is in the handsome, well-lighted, and well-laid out city of to-day. We gather this from reading resolutions in the minutes for boarding up the church to exclude pigs, and for clearing the church grounds to avoid risk from forest fires, as well as from what we know of the progress made in civic matters during the last five or six years.

In 1862 a great benefaction was bestowed upon the church by the gift of a chime of eight bells from that munificent Churchwoman, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. They were given to the bishop for his cathedral in New Westminster, but, owing to the necessity of building a tower strong enough to receive them, their sweet tones were not heard until the spring of 1865, when from bank to bank of the Fraser River the silvery notes made known to lonely settlers and fishermen the invitation to hear the Gospel message. But although the bells passed safely through the fire about to be mentioned, they have been silent for some years, as the effort to build a suitable and safe tower in which they might hang has so far been unsuccessful. It will be a work worthy of the new bishop of the diocese, whoever he may be, once more to make their voices heard.

Great progress was made in Church work from 1862 onwards. A parsonage was built in 1863, the inside of the church lined, and the ground fenced. Then came the great blow, struck, as is very often the case in our western cities, by fire. In September, 1865, Holy Trinity Church was totally destroyed by fire, nothing of value being saved but the bells. The damage done was estimated at \$11,000, of

which \$5,000 was covered by insurance. Service was now held temporarily in the drill shed belonging to the volunteer corps, although it is worthy to be chronicled that the Presbyterian church, in sending a vote of sympathy to the congregation, formally offered their church building for temporary use.

At the time of the fire the rector, Mr. Sheepshanks, was in England, and, being communicated with, he delayed his return home, and with characteristic energy set to work to raise funds for a new church. An appeal to the English public met with such good success that, in 1866, Mr. Sheepshanks returned with a sum sufficient to warrant the committee in undertaking a new building. The new church was of stone rubble, and cost about \$11,000. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Seymour, and so rapidly did the work progress that the ceremony of consecration took place on December 18th, 1867. The sermon was preached by Bishop Hills from St. Luke xviii. 8, and the occasion was made the opportunity of presenting some valuable gifts to the new church.

Soon after this Mr. Sheepshanks resigned, and the Archdeacon of Columbia (the Ven. C. J. Woods)—who, in spite of many years' arduous labors as a pioneer missionary of the Church in this province, survived till quite recently—became the second rector, July 25th, 1868.

From that time to this, steady improvement has been manifested in many directions. Mr. Sheepshanks was indefatigable in raising and sending out money, although no longer connected with the diocese, and the new rector was ably assisted by the other clergy whom Bishop Hills had attracted to the diocese. To show that all was not smooth sailing, it may be mentioned that in 1875 a stupid act of fanaticism was perpetrated by some person or persons stealing from the church a handsome brass cross which had been presented by the Mayor of Coventry.

In 1879 Bishop Hills' long delayed scheme of a division of the diocese was carried into effect, and Bishop Sillitoe became the first chief pastor. New Westminster was now a see city, but for ten years Bishop Sillitoe resided at Sapperton, from whence he made journeys all over his vast diocese. In 1889, however, an exchange was agreed upon, by which Archdeacon Woods became rector of Sapperton, and the Bishop rector of Holy Trinity. In many ways this was a wise move, and led eventually to Holy Trinity Church being constituted the cathedral church of the diocese; but the double work of rector and bishop was undoubtedly too onerous for one man, and in his earnest efforts to perform its duties Bishop Sillitoe probably broke down his health and shortened his days.

However, if the bishop suffered, the Church prospered. Dr. Sillitoe's great musical gifts

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