

The object of this paper, however, is not to attempt a description of Edinburgh, as it was, nor as it is, but only to notice a very few of its ecclesiastical features. Including Leith and the suburbs, the population of the City is about 350,000. The different religious denominations being represented somewhat as follows,—

CONGREGATIONS.

The Church of Scotland.....	38
Free Church of Scotland.....	43
United Presbyterian Church.....	23
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland	1
Original Seceders.....	2
United Original Seceders.....	1
Remnant of Original Seceders.....	2
Episcopal Church in Scotland.....	12
Other Episcopalians.....	2
Evangelical Union and affiliated Churches	4
Congregational Union of Scotland.....	4
Baptist Union of Scotland.....	6
Wesleyan Methodists.....	2
Primitive Methodist Connexion.....	1
Roman Catholics.....	4

Presbyterianism here, as throughout Scotland, largely predominates, though episcopacy has twice as many congregations as are in Glasgow where the population is nearly double that of Edinburgh. Methodism does not thrive in Edinburgh nor indeed in any other part of Scotland. The Assembly Hall of the Established Church, which is also used as the Tolbooth parish church, occupies a commanding site on Castle Hill. Though a very fine building, adorned with a magnificent spire, and complete in its fittings, it seems to a stranger quite too small, having very limited accommodation beyond what is actually required by members of the Assembly in session. Consequently it is often uncomfortably crowded. The Assembly Hall of the Free Church, on the other side of High Street, appears to have been expressly designed *pro bono publico*. Besides the ample area for members, it has room for an audience of between two and three thousand persons, and upon "field days," it is filled to the door. It has no architectural beauty, but its acoustic properties are unequalled by any building of its size. Immediately in front of this Hall—facing "the mound" is the "New College," and Offices of the Free Church which present a handsome appearance from Princes Street.

The Edinburgh churches are somewhat disappointing. Of the newer ones, the two St.

George's are the largest and perhaps the finest. Internally, neither is beautiful. On the whole, the protestant churches in Montreal contrast favourably. At the same time there is nothing in Canada to compare with old St. Giles' or with the new St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral—the finest ecclesiastical edifice built in Scotland since the Reformation. ST. GILES' is worthy of notice, chiefly on account of its intrinsic value, arising out of its intimate connection with the history of Scotland. It is the original parish church of the City—tracing its origin to the twelfth century, when it superseded a church of much older date. Occupying a prominent site on High Street, its fine spire, surmounted by a sculptured crown, is seen from a great distance. This Cathedral is revered by all classes of the community as a national relic. But no ecclesiastical structure in Scotland has been so sadly neglected and mutilated. Its external features were almost entirely obliterated in the "restoration" begun in 1829 which left it in its present form. In Knox's time—Cathedral-like—it was open from end to end, and had room for a congregation of at least 3000 people. Soon after the Reformation it was divided into four parish churches. Moreover, there was rowded into this unfortunate building, the Grammar-school, the courts of Justice, the weaver's work shop, and the machinery of the gallows, while beneath, it was full of dead men's bones, and saturated with pestilential odours.* Centuries rolled on before the literati of Edinburgh bestowed a thought upon the subject. Not till 1872, at the instance of Provost Chambers, of the celebrated publishing firm, did the work of opening up and repairing the interior of St. Giles' commence. But little would have been accomplished, had not Dr. Chambers himself become responsible for the amount of money that might be found necessary to restore the whole of the interior as nearly as possible to its original condition. Already the East end has been renewed and presents a very fine appearance. In a year or two more the entire edifice will be brought back to something like what it was in the olden times, when the floor will have a clear sweep of two hundred feet in

*Story of St. Giles' by W. Chambers, L.L.D.,