

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 20.—ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, ALMONTE, DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

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THERE are probably few parishes in the Diocese of Ontario that can compare with Almonte for uninterrupted and steady prosperity since its formation. Forty five years ago, when that indefatigable herald of the Cross, the Rev. Dr. Boswell, whom no difficulties of travel could daunt, first visited the place, then called "Shipman's Falls,"—to hold the earliest services of which there is any record, he found there, as he once told the writer, but one Church family. The first school house erected in the village—an insignificant log building—was utilized as their place of meeting. Nine times during 1843 and 1844 did that devoted pioneer missionary gather together the few and scattered Church people of the neighborhood in this little room, while his hands were full erecting a church in each of the three leading stations of his Mission, Carleton-Place, Innisville and Clayton. Later on his successors contributed occasional services there, which was the best they could do in view of the arduous duties connected with their special fields of labor. Between the years 1855 and 1859 the Rev. R. G. Cox, now deceased, at irregular periods ministered to the still little band of Church folk in a building long known as the "Temperance Hall." In the summer of 1859 the writer was appointed to the parish of Carleton-Place, and at once established regular Sunday services in Almonte—four in the morning and eight in the afternoon, in the course of the year. Business began to boom in the village about this time, and the mere handful of worshippers—ten or twelve families in all, so increased that very soon the accommodation afforded by the "Hall" became wholly inadequate to the requirements of the congregation. Steps then were taken for the erection of a church. At the Easter vestry, 1862, a Building Committee was appointed, and on the 1st of April, 1863, the contract was given out, and about midsummer of the following year the beautiful edifice, now known as St. Paul's Church, was completed, and on the 29th of June consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Ontario. The cost of the whole, including site and bell, was \$4,500, of which the Rosomond family contributed the magnificent sum of \$3,000.

While the building was in course of erection the Bishop of Ontario, who took a lively interest in the good work, attended by the Ven. Archdeacon Patton, paid his first visit to the village, and confirmed in the Methodist chapel, loaned for the occasion (the Hall being too small) a class of twelve adults. Not long after this, the separation of Almonte and Clayton from the parish of Carleton-Place and their formation into a new Mission was brought about, and the writer kindly received from

the Bishop the offer of the Rectorship, but preferring to remain in the mother parish the position of first Incumbent fell to the lot of the Rev. Edwin Slade. After laboring four years Mr. Slade was succeeded in August, 1867, by the Rev. J. W. Burke, now rector of Belleville, who "instant in season and out of season" in his labors of love for two years, resigned and was followed by the Rev. J. K. McMorine in September, 1869, present rector of St. James', Kingston. Great progress in Christian work, spiritual and otherwise, distinguished the incumbency of Mr. McMorine. A handsome and commodious parsonage adjoining the church, costing upwards of \$4,000 was built, and the parish at the Easter Vestry of 1873 voluntarily surrendered the Mission Board grant of \$200 per annum, which it had enjoyed since its organization, and became self-supporting. The Rev. F. L. Stephenson succeeded to the rectorship in 1879, and Church work received a fresh impetus. Always a successful financier, he extinguished in due time the heavy debt on the parsonage, and finding the church requiring extensive repairs and enlargement, he boldly took the matter in hand, raised by subscription \$3,500, and had so far proceeded with the undertaking, that at the time of his appointment a few months ago to St. Peter's Brockville, the work was almost completed. Mr. Stephenson's resignation was soon followed by the formation of a new mission from the out-stations of Almonte and Lanark, viz., Clayton and Innisville, consequently Almonte is now a parish by itself, and its history briefly written is as follows:—In 1845 but one Church family—in 1859 not more than twelve—in 1863 a mission—now a vigorous, self sustaining, important parish, presenting every condition of steady, healthy growth. "A little one shall become a thousand." Who shall despise "the day of small things?"

It remains to be said that the Rev. G. J. Lowe is the present worthy rector, a clergyman of unusual ability, who has already won the affections of his people.

A PARTY of ten left England for China under the auspices of the China Inland Mission during the second week of September last.

"The more we spread religion abroad so much the more shall we have remaining, and so much the more richly does it flow back." Freely ye have received, freely give.

THE needle of a missionary's wife was the instrument God used to give access to Oriental Zenanas. A piece of embroidery wrought by her deft fingers found its way to the secluded inmates of a Zenana. If a woman could do such a work as that other women could learn under her instruction and so, with the consent of the husband, this Christian woman was welcomed to the inside of his home, and as she taught his wife the art of embroidery she was working "the scarlet dyed in the blood of the Lamb" into the more delicate fabric of their hearts and lives.