



MR. STEWART'S RECTORY.

attention to St. Armand East. The first name really connected with the history of that district is that of the Hon. Rev. Charles James Stewart, whose memory is held there, as well as in many other portions of Quebec, and even the Dominion of Canada, in lasting reverence. Frequent reference to this honoured clergyman, who afterwards became the third Bishop of Quebec, has been made in this magazine, and it is fitting that his portrait should be connected with an account of his first missionary charge. Himself the younger son of the Earl of Galloway, and possessed of private means, a graduate of Oxford, conscientious and sympathetic to the last degree, he is represented as hearing in England the "despairing wail of a discouraged missionary" from this part of Quebec, probably one of the three whose names have been mentioned above. The missionary spirit being strong within him he had already resolved to leave his comfortable English rectory of Orton, and go to distant lands with the message of salvation, and this appeal caused him to change his proposed field of labor from the burning sun of India, to the frozen clime of Canada. The closing months of the year 1807 found the young missionary at his post, in the very district from which the despairing cry had come.

Within fifteen months, from such materials, most unpropitious, this servant of God was enabled to build the church, an illustration of which accompanies this article. It was duly consecrated on January 29, 1809 with a multitude of persons, drawn doubtless from hundreds of miles around, to witness the opening of the *first place of worship*, in the words of Mr. Stewart "throughout this whole region of country." It is stated that the good pastor himself, bore two-fifths of the cost of this, and another church in the Seigniorship of St. Armand. "Devotion to God's service made me a missionary," were the simple words of Mr. Stewart and that *devotion* carried out in self-denying, untiring labours, not only secured the first fruits of this old building which continued to supply the spiritual home to Christ's disciples till February, 1880, or a period of seventy-one years, but led to like conquests for the Master

and like blessing to his people in different parts of Ontario as well as Quebec. As a travelling missionary, he added to his success as founder of the parishes and churches of St. Armand, the unique record of being instrumental through earnest appeals to English Christians, always backed heavily by his own unstinted beneficence, in the erection of twenty-four churches throughout the then Province of Canada, nearly all of which were built on the same pattern. It has been said "A church must be the embodiment of an idea." If so, Mr Stewart's churches bear witness to the simple, loving desire to minister the ordinances of Christ in the primitive conditions of a new country, suggesting in their plainness the remark of an article, some years since, in *Harper's Magazine* regarding this very church, "that it was proof of the capacity of the Church of England to adapt its services to the most rigid Puritan barrenness." Mr. Stewart, on his arrival in 1807, secured accommodations in a farm house (still standing), with a family named Houck. As progress demanded he soon took up his residence with a favourite man-servant in the building still existing, but in a dilapidated condition, at the south of the village, where he resided thereafter until his resignation of the parish in 1815. It is to be regretted that this historical landmark is apparently doomed to disappear before many years. It is singular that in some publications of the S.P.C.K. and elsewhere, the honour of being the residence of Hon. and Rev. Mr. Stewart, should have been assigned to the present rectory building, which Mr. Stewart never entered except as a visitor or chief pastor. On his retirement, a resident clergyman was promised to that portion of the seigniorship, which would first provide a parsonage. St. Armand East, and the village of Frelighsburg secured the boon by the erection of the existing rectory which became the home of Mr. Stewart's worthy successor, the Rev. James Reid.

Mr. Stewart appears to have had that magnetic power which attracted to him the better part of every community, and again reflected back upon them somewhat of his own nobility of character. His discrimination was marked in the advancement of Mr. James Reid to the priesthood, and his institution in 1815, as Mr. Stewart's parting blessing to the parish of St. Armand, to be the pastor of the flock which he had gathered into the spiritual fold from the wilderness. For almost fifty years the Rev. James Reid continued an uninterrupted pastorate, gaining such distinction as an able minister of the New Testament, as warranted the acquisition of the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Lennoxville, and the bestowal by Bishop Fulford, of an honorary canonry in Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. Among his parishioners, many of them the immediate disciples of the noble Stewart, and