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11

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Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

Church Society's Office, Dec. 3, 1856.

A meeting of the Central Board of the Church Society was held this day, the Lord Bishop in the Chair.

The Treasurer reported that the following sums had been received since the last meeting:—

Collection at Mascouche Clerical Ass.	2	0	0
“ “ Miss'y purposes	1	4	7
“ Terrebonne.....	0	15	2
“ Buckingham.....	1	15	0
“ St. Andrews.....	2	17	8
“ “ Thanksgiving Day	1	5	2
“ Henryville.....	0	16	0
Subscription of Rev. Prof. Thompson.	1	5	0
“ Buckingham.....	5	17	6
“ St. Andrews.....	2	16	3
“ Henryville.....	3	15	0
“ Hemmingford.....	5	10	0

FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Collection at Mascouche.....	1	10	0
“ Terrebonne.....	0	13	0
“ Buckingham....	1	2	6
“ St. Andrews.....	2	3	1
“ Hemmingford..	1	5	0

EDWARD J. ROGERS, Secretary.

CHRIST CHURCH, MONTREAL.

Christ's Church Cathedral Montreal, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday, the 10th December. Now that the old building is gone, we have thought it might not be uninteresting to our reader to copy an account of it from the *Hochelaga Depicta*, written in 1839. We may add, that some alterations have since been made. The Church was erected into a Cathedral in 1856.

After the cession of the Canadas to Britain, many of the soldiers, when the troops were disbanded, preferred remaining here, and others, attracted by the hope of commercial advantage, came over to this country, so that in a few years a considerable number of British were found among the settlers. Many of these were of the Episcopal persuasion and naturally desired to procure clergymen from home to conduct public worship according to the practice of the Church of England, in which they had been educated. The greater portion of these had settled in the towns; and expressions of their desire having been forwarded to England, three clergymen were sent out together, and appointed to Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal. The Rev. Mr. Dehise, a native of Switzerland, was the first Protestant Episcopal Minister who settled in this city. When he arrived there was no place of worship, and the people were not sufficiently numerous or affluent to build one; they readily

obtained, however, the use of the Recollect Church, at such hours as the Society had no occasion to use it. There was then no Protestant Bishop at Quebec; and in the year 1789 the Bishop of Nova Scotia came to Canada on a Diocesan visitation. The congregation, now much increased, applied to his Lordship for aid, and soon afterwards obtained from Lord Dorchester, the Governor, the use of the Church which formerly belonged to the Jesuits' College, and stood near the site of the gaol. Having fitted it up with pews, they attended divine worship in it for the first time on Sunday the 20th of December, 1789.

The Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada were erected into an Episcopal See in the year 1793. Dr. Jacob Mountain was the first Bishop of Quebec, with power over the whole diocese. A fire broke out in an old building near the church, in the month of June, 1803, which so far injured the church itself as to render it useless for the purposes of worship. A meeting of the congregation was held within a few days, when measures were resorted to which issued in the erection of the present handsome structure; in the meantime the congregation were accommodated with the use of the Presbyterian Church in St. Gabriel Street. The Committee appointed were Dr. Mountain the resident minister, son of the first Bishop of Quebec, the Hon. James McGill, the Hon. Judge Ogden, F. Frohisher, David Ross, Stephen Sewell, and J. A. Gray, Esqrs. A new church being resolved upon in preference to repairing the old, means were taken to raise a fund by the sale of pews, and by application to His Majesty the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the merchants in London who were interested in the trade of Canada. Two spots of ground were then at liberty; one the vacant place which adjoined the gaol, and was occupied as a garden for the Government House; the other that lot on Notre Dame Street on which the old French prison stood formerly. The latter being preferred, was granted for the purpose by the Lieutenant Governor Sir Robert Shore Milnes. In addition to this lot the congregation purchased from Mr. Guy, for the sum of £500 currency, a strip of ground which ran along the rear of it, so as to admit of access to the church from Little St. James Street. A plan and specification by Mr. Bercey were selected, and a committee to direct the work immediately appointed. The contract was made in January 1805, with Messrs. Joseph Chevalier and Baptist Laroche for the mason work, Messrs. Isaac Shey and D. Bent for the roof and covering, and Mr. Gilmour to superintend the building, and furnish the cut-stone for it. The contractors began to prepare the materials, that the building might be commenced early in the spring. On the 21st day of June, the corner stone was laid with the usual formalities, by the Lord Bishop of Quebec, who came to Montreal for the purpose. Thus, after much effort, some disappointments and many interruptions, an object of such interest

to the Protestant Episcopalians of this place, was put into a train of accomplishment.

On a plate which is embedded in the stone, there is the following inscription:—

“Glory be to God.”

“Of this sacred Edifice, raised upon Ground granted for that purpose by our most Gracious Sovereign George III. by the pious exertions of the Protestant inhabitants of this City, and dedicated to the service of Almighty God according to the establishment of the Church of England, this corner stone was laid by Jacob, Lord Bishop of Quebec, on the 21st day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1805.”

In a cavity formed in the stone to which the above plate answers as a cover, there is a glass bottle hermetically sealed, and containing the following Coins and Medals, together with a roll of parchment bearing an inscription, of which the undermentioned is a copy. In gold there is a guinea of George III., bearing date 1792; a half guinea, same reign, dated 1797; a third do. dated 1799. In silver there is a shilling of George III. dated 1787; a sixpence of the same reign, 1787. In copper there are one penny George III. of 1797; a half-penny and a farthing of the same King, dated 1799; also a half-penny of George Prince of Wales, without date. Besides these, there are two Medals, the one struck in commemoration of Lord Howe's victory of the 1st of June, 1794; and the other of Lord Nelson's defeat of the combined fleets of France and Spain, on the 5th of November, 1805. The inscription on parchment roll bears the name of the building committee, as follows:—

“This Building was erected under the direction of the following Committee, being a Committee chosen by the Congregation for that purpose. The Rev. Dr. Mountain, Edward William Gray, Joseph Frohisher, Robert Cruickshanks, John Platt, David Ross, David Sewell, Esqrs., and Frederick William Ermatinger, Esquire, Treasurer.

“Montreal, 27th June, 1805.”

The funds hitherto obtained were insufficient to do more than finish the walls and the roof, and no further progress was made for some years. In 1808 the sum of £400 was received from merchants in England; and in 1810 the Imperial Parliament voted a grant of £4000 towards finishing the Protestant Parish Church in Montreal; but this was not received till 1812, and then with a diminution of nearly £200 currency, owing to a difference in the rate of exchange during the delay. In the spring of that year the carpenters' work of the inside and the plastering were undertaken by contract, the former by Mr. John Try, and the latter by Mr. Thomas Phillips. On the 9th day of October, 1813, divine service was performed in the new Church. The organ was erected in 1816. It is