

*An account of CHRIST'S CHURCH in the City of Montreal, Province
of Lower-Canada.*

On the conquest of Canada by Great-Britain, in the year 1759, and the disbanding of the troops subsequent to that event, many of the soldiers who had been engaged in that struggle preferred remaining in the country rather than returning to their native land. After the definitive treaty was signed, by which Canada was ceded to England, this Colony became an object of attraction to the British merchant, and many who were engaged in commercial pursuits turned to it as the scene of their operations in that line. These two causes combining had the effect of bringing to the country a number of Protestants of the Episcopal persuasion, who soon after settling, discovered the necessity of procuring clergymen, in order that they might enjoy the benefit of public worship according to the tenets of the Church of England in which they had been educated. The greater portion of these Protestants had settled in, and adjoining to the principal Towns in the country, and of course these places were the first to which Protestant Clergymen were appointed. Three of them were sent out together and appointed to Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal. The gentleman who was stationed in the latter place was a Mr. Delisle a native of Switzerland and appears to have been the first Protestant Episcopal Clergyman who was regularly settled in that city. There are no documents or records from which we can learn, the mode in which the application for this Clergyman was made, whether it was by petition direct to the Primus of England or to the Bishop of Nova-Scotia. Perhaps it was through the influence of the latter that Mr. Delisle was sent to Montreal as it appears evident that at this time the Church of England in Canada was under the Episcopal jurisdiction of the Bishop of Nova-Scotia.

But although the desire of the Episcopal Protestants in Montreal had thus far been complied with in their obtaining a Clergyman of their own persuasion, they had still other difficulties to surmount. As yet there was no Church or place in which divine worship could be performed, and the limited numbers of the congregation and their circumscribed means precluded the possibility of their building a suitable church for the present. This obstacle was happily got over by an application to the Recollets for the use of their Church for Mr. Delisle to officiate in at such hours as they might not themselves have occasion for it; and it deserves to be mentioned as a proof of the liberal feelings of that body that they readily complied with that application. This deficit being supplied for the time, the service of the Church of England was regularly performed by Mr. Delisle.

In the month of July 1789, the Right Rev. Charles Bishop of Nova-Scotia, came to Canada on a Diocesan visitation; and the Protestant Episcopal congregation in Montreal, now considerably augmented in numbers, availed themselves of this event, and made several applications to him for some requisites they stood in need of in order to place themselves on a more respectable and permanent