

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, GUELPH

HISTORICAL

THE first place of worship erected on the Hill of Guelph was a wooden building which was used in the early years of the City's history, till burnt down in 1844. In 1845 St. Bartholomew's Church was built through the indefatigable labors of Father J. Holzer, S. J., to whom we owe, also, St. Ignatius' College, now occupied by the Rectory, the Loretto Academy and St. Joseph's Hospital.

Thirty years passed, and the pressing need of a larger church was felt. Father P. Hamel, S.J., a man of artistic temperament, now appeared on the scene. He had studied in Europe and visited Cologne Cathedral, and such was the impression produced in his mind by the great edifice that it ever afterward haunted him. In Joseph Connolly, the architect, a disciple of Pugin, who had worked on the Armagh Cathedral and travelled Europe in special study of its Gothic piles, Father Hamel found a congenial spirit. Together they designed the plan of the Church of Our Lady, and boldly set about the execution of a miniature Cologne, since styled the Cologne of Canada.