

THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART.



AMONG the large number of beautiful churches which merited for Ottawa from a late Governor-General the title of "The City of Steeples" none is grander or more

imposing than will be the Church of the Sacred Heart which is being constructed on the corner of Theodore and Cumberland Streets by the Oblate Fathers. This magnificent edifice, the cut of which we present in this number of the OWL, was begun in 1888 when the limited accommodation furnished by St. Joseph's Church necessitated a division of the parish. The French members of the congregation decided upon erecting a church of their own, and steps were immediately taken for the construction of the present structure. In the following year the basement was completed, in which divine service was held until the 24th of December, 1893, when the upper portion was used for the first time.

The church in its present condition is only partially completed as it lacks the front wall and tower, it being deemed advisable to wait until sufficient funds will be secured before proceeding further. The sacred edifice stands upon elevated ground, and presents exteriorly an imposing appearance. It is of the Romano-Byzantine style of architecture, and is constructed of Ottawa Valley limestone of grey and blue color. The extreme dimensions of the building are, 188 feet in length by 64 in breadth, with a transept of 124 feet in each end of which is a large circular window 15 feet in diameter. The pinnacle on the back wall is 102 feet high and the tower when completed will reach the height of 220 feet.

The richness and exquisite beauty of the interior is in keeping with the imposing magnificence of the exterior. Elaborate decoration has been made secondary to beauty of form, combining purity of style and harmony of coloring with unity and completeness of detail. The nave is 62 feet in height and is supported by ten large pillars and sixteen smaller ones, the upper parts of which are embellished by sculptured ornamenta-

tion of beautiful design. The windows are of plain frosted cathedral glass ornamented with anchor and cross. The floor is of birch, the pews of polished ash with black walnut trimming. The seating capacity is twelve hundred. The present altars are only temporary and will be replaced by three beautiful ones in harmony with the interior decoration.

In the organ loft is a grand electric instrument of great volume and sweetness of tone which is rendered most effective by the excellent acoustic properties of the sacred edifice. It was supplied by Messrs. Casavant Bros., of St. Hyacinthe, at a cost of \$5,300 and is so arranged that it can be connected, if so desired, with two smaller organs in the sanctuary.

The building is heated with hot water and lighted with incandescent lights. The total cost will be upwards of \$120,000.

The erection of this beautiful edifice is to a great extent due to the untiring energy of Rev. Father Gendreau, O.M.I. under whose pastorate it was begun. In 1890 this zealous priest was called to a responsible position in the Oblate Order in Montreal; and Rev. Father Harnois, O.M.I., was appointed to carry on the work. A priest of wide experience, having been connected for a number of years with the large and important parish of Hull, Father Harnois proved himself admirably fitted for the task. Within the past year his arduous duties in connection with the Juniorate in which he takes such a deep interest, compelled him to resign his charge of the Sacred Heart parish. His successor, Rev. Father Valiquette, O.M.I., has already proved himself a wise administrator as well as a kind and prudent pastor, and under his careful supervision the successful completion of the work may be looked forward to. This magnificent building, with the Juniorate, St. Joseph's Church and the University on the opposite and diagonal corners, forms a square of stately edifices which greatly enhance the architectural beauty of the eastern portion of the city, and stand as a striking testimony to the ardent zeal of the Oblate Fathers in the sacred causes of religion and education.