

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

EAST END METHODIST CHURCH

In the year 1826 a "society" was formed in the "Quebec suburbs," as the east end of the city was then called, and in the following year a small chapel and school house were erected in Gain street for the accommodation of the congregation and the children of families living in the neighborhood. This chapel was a frame building, about forty feet long, by twenty-four wide, and of very unpretentious appearance, both inside and out. In those days there were but a few scattered houses to be seen in what is to-day the thickly populated section of the east end, and cattle grazed in the fields in which the site of the present East End Church was then situated. At that time things that seem, to the present generation, to have "always been," either did not exist or were new to the people of the time. Old St. James was then (1827) the centre and spring of Montreal Methodism, and was the only church owned by the denomination in the city. The Rev. Dr. Stinson was the pastor of St. James Church, which was situated at the corner of St. James and St. Francois Xavier streets.

The members of the new "society," as the early communicants of the Methodist Church called themselves, when they first banded together as a church, were ministered to partly by the pastors of "St. James" and partly by local preachers and class leaders. Good progress was made during the first ten years of the society's existence, so that in 1837 the congregation had increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to secure a new chapel.

The cause in the east end found a true and generous friend at this period in Mr. James Ferrier, afterwards the Honorable Senator Ferrier, who fitted up a neat and commodious place of worship on Montcalm street near Notre Dame street, which he presented to the society. The meeting place on Montcalm street is described as a long upper room in a frame building which stood between Notre Dame street, the east end of which was called St. Mary's street, and the river, and was used as a chair factory on week days.