

Church Observer

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"ONE FAITH,—ONE LORD,—ONE BAPTISM."

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Poetry.

THANKSGIVING.

I.
Father of mercies, unto Thee we owe
Far more than mind of man can comprehend;
Thy goodness nor beginning has nor end,
From Thee, each moment, countless blessings flow;
Then for a year of blessings who can know
How much he is Thy debtor? Thou alone,
O God, canst tell; to Thee all things are known.

II.
Therefore, with thoughts of our own littleness,
We would approach to Thee so far above
Our comprehension in Thy height of love;
And first, we would our thanklessness confess
For all Thy myriad loving-kindnesses,
To us-ward, year by year, and day by day;
This, our great sin, O God, forgive, we pray.

III.
Then, humbled, let us silently review
Each thought, word, deed, that we can now recall
(Oh! God omniscient, Thou canst see them all!)
Of our past lives, and think what is our due,
If God were swift to punish all He knew
Of evil, in our hearts and lips and hands!
How often have we broken His commands!

IV.
O God, by Thy pure Spirit cleanse our hearts,
That our Thanksgiving may ascend to Thee,
From sin's inveterate pollution free,
That still some stain to our best act imparts,
That cannot be washed out by all man's arts,
It was to wash our hearts the Saviour's blood
(Eternal, potent stream!) on Calvary flowed.

V.
We thank Thee for our lives preserved; for health,
For bounteous blessings from the earth beneath,
That the fell sword has slept within its sheath;
We thank Thee that our land has grown in wealth;
No pestilence has crept on us by stealth;
Sedition has not wrested us in twain;
Nor despotism forged for us a chain.

VI.
These blessings, as a nation, have been ours;
For these, O God, no praises can suffice:
Oh! let us yield ourselves a sacrifice,
(Whom, undeserving, God so richly dowers)
Our hearts, our heads, our hands, and all our powers,
And henceforth to His service let us live,
And so, thanks living, we best thanks may give.

VII.
And while we thank Thee, let us not forget
To pray for those who are less richly blest
In health and peace and plenty; east or west,
Or north or south, wherever man has set
His habitation, there we owe a debt
Of love; Thou art our general Father; Thou
The God to whom, at last, all knees must bow.

VIII.
On those that sit in darkness pour Thy light;
Grant unto those whom war has wasted, peace;
To those that are in bondage, bring release;
Give to the eyes of blind oppression, sight;
Let victory be theirs, whose cause is right,
When Thou allowest war; relieve with food
The poor who cry to Thee, by want subdued.

IX.
Our Father, these our thanks and prayers receive
With gracious ear; Thou knowest all our need;
'Tis by our total feebleness we plead;
From Thy Benignant Hand we all receive;
Oh! in Thy Goodness may we still believe,
And every day think, speak, and act Thy praise,
That all our lives may be Thanksgiving Days.

JOHN READE.

Ecclesiastical News.

CANADIAN.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

GRACE CHURCH, POINT ST. CHARLES.

A suggestion made some months ago by His Lordship the Metropolitan has resulted in the erection of a beautiful and commodious Church at Point St. Charles. Without making a general appeal, the friends on the spot have raised among themselves such a proportion of the amount needed for the erection as to justify the hope that the building when finished will not be burdened with a farthing of debt. If the energy with which the work has been prosecuted so far, and the same spirit of self-reliance and self-denial be sustained there is reason to believe that this very desirable result will be attained. We commend the undertaking to the sympathy and liberality of all Churchmen who love to aid a deserving cause.

The church is in the Gothic style of architecture, and is fast advancing towards completion. In plan it consists of nave 63.0 x 38.), chancel 15.0 x 12.0, organ

chamber and vestry, each 12.0 x 9.0, placed on either side of chancel, and separated from it and nave, into which they open by tracery-headed screens. In construction Montreal stone has been used as high as base course; red brick, with dressing, &c., of Ohio stone and Toronto white brick, for the superstructure. The white brick and stone are worked in as quoins, bands, &c., to windows, doors, and gables. The church is lighted on the west end by a large wheel window; on the east by a highly traceried ditto; and on the sides by ten double-lighted segmental and tracery-headed ditto, the whole to be filled with obscured and foliated glass. The roof is open to the apex and is divided by four principals into five compartments; timbers show and are stained and varnished. In chancel portion there will be a sub-division divided by longitudinal and transverse timbers, into compartments, these timbers are chamfered at angles. The covering is slate with bands of green slate the latter running full length of roof. From the drawings we gather the following additional information. Seats are to be open with out ends, and sufficient in number to accommodate 300 worshippers; stalls for Choir are also provided for. A bell turret 34 feet in height is to be placed on the west gable. Appropriate crosses are to be fixed on each gable, and at entrance a porch of open wood-work is to be fixed. We remark that every advantage has been taken by the architect in his arrangement of the materials at his command. The contrast between the colour of the brick is striking, and the arrangement, to a certain extent, novel in effect. Utility and adaptability to the rigours of a northern climate have in all parts been very well studied. Contractors for mason work, Peter Nicholson; for Brick ditto., W. H. Boon; for Carpenter and Joiner and Pews, G. Roberts; for Roofing and Galvanized Iron work, G. W. Reed; for Painting, James Kimber; for Glazing and Stained Glass, John C. Spence; for Plastering, Aitken & Morrisson; Architect, Thos. S. Scott.

The Bishop, Clergy, Building Committee, and others, having ranged themselves near the Building, Hymn No. 240, commencing "O Lord of Hosts, Whose glory fills" was sung.

Mr. Clark, Chairman of the Building Committee, then read that Committee's report, as follows:—At the suggestion of the Metropolitan, a meeting of the members of the church at Point St. Charles was held, at which a Committee was appointed and a subscription list opened. Plans for a church to accommodate 300 persons were adopted, and contracts awarded for the work at a cost of \$9,000. The site of the church was generously given by Mr. Brydges, on behalf of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and deeded to Messrs. C. J. Brydges and E. P. Hannaford as trustees. The total amount of money already subscribed is \$4,700, and to cover the remainder the Committee have arranged a temporary loan. The Committee appeal with confidence to aid them in paying the whole of the debt during the next twelve months. As the members of the congregation are almost entirely from the working classes, the friends of the church will see the necessity of using every means to have the building, on its completion, free from debt. At one of the meetings after the building had been commenced, the subject of a name for the church came up and it being felt that it was mainly Mr. Brydges' influence and assistance which enabled them to proceed with the work, it was resolved that the Church should be named after one of Mr. Brydges' family. One of the names of Mrs. Brydges, "Grace," a very appropriate name, was chosen, which was wholly acceptable to the congregation. To the Metropolitan, Mr. and Mrs. Brydges and to all others who have so generously contributed, the committee return their sincere thanks, and respectfully ask them to continue their assistance and advice, until the committee, by

the blessing of God, are enabled to bring their labours to a successful issue.

Mr. C. J. Brydges then addressed the assembly in a few well chosen and encouraging words. The appointed service was then proceeded with, his Lordship and the people reading the selections from the Psalms responsively.

The Bishop said that he wished to say a very few words. This ceremony of laying the corner stone was a very interesting one; and he trusted that they should soon be able to perform the still more interesting ceremony of opening the church. He had heard with great delight that before the year's end they would be able to liquidate all debts, when he should rejoice to consecrate it to the service of God. He was highly gratified at the earnestness displayed by those who had taken the work in hand. On a former occasion he had stirred them up a little, although very little stirring up had been required; and before he had time to turn round the building was up and roofed in. He hoped they would continue to be as earnest when the building was completed. He had heard that they very properly thought of choosing a minister, and if their choice fell upon a man of God, he would be glad to confirm it. He must say one word more with regard to Mr. Curran, who had acted very generously toward them, looking out for their interests more than his own. For when he found that they wished to have an independent church he had done all he could to aid them. In conclusion he hoped that this undertaking which had been so successfully begun would be completed, so as to further their eternal good and the glory of God.

The following prayers were then read by the Rev. Canon Bend L.L.D.:

"Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the chief corner stone and immovable foundation of Thy Church, bless this building the corner stone of which is now to be laid in Thy name. Be Thou, we pray Thee, both the beginning and ending of this work, which we take in hand to the praise and glory of Thy name; and grant that whosoever, with pure and devout mind, shall render assistance in this good work, may receive Thy heavenly benediction, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end."

Rev. W. B. Curran, read a copy of the document containing the names of the subscribers and which had been placed in the Corner Stone.

The Chairman of the Committee handed a silver trowel and a mallet to the Bishop, who proceeded to lay the corner-stone of the Building, saying:

"I lay the corner-stone of this House of God, to be called by the name of Grace Church, erected for the purpose of public worship, according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

"Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

"Glory be to the Father, &c.

"As it was in the beginning, &c."

The audience then joined in singing two verses of the hymn commencing "Christ is our corner-stone."

A collection for the Building Fund was then made, the contributions being laid upon the stone, as an offering to the Lord.

The very interesting ceremony closed with the following prayers which were read by the Rev. Canon Baldwin, M.A.

"O Almighty God, who by Thy wisdom guidest and orderest all things, grant we beseech Thee, that the building now begun in Thy Name, may be happily carried on without injury or accident; and that when completed, it may be consecrated and set

apart for Thy service and the salvation of the souls of men, from generation to generation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

"O Almighty God, who hast built Thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone, grant us, so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto Thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

His Lordship pronounced the benediction.

The trowel with which the stone was laid bears a mitre and the following inscription:—"The Most Reverend Ashton Oxendon, D.D., Lord Bishop and Metropolitan, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of Grace Church, Point St. Charles, Oct. 21, 1870. Committee, Messrs. W. Garnham, J. Taylor, J. White, W. Corner, R. Surgeon, T. Collinson, J. Powles, W. Duckett, C. Corner, W. Mackwood; Rev. W. B. Curran, A.M.; J. S. Hall, Treasurer; A. Starke, Secretary; J. Curtis Clark, Chairman.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.

A meeting was held last night in the Chapter House of Christ Church Cathedral, for the purpose of organizing a Young Men's Christian Association. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Canon Baldwin, M.A. who opened the proceedings with prayer.

After some remarks by the Chairman, on the utility of such Associations, and the necessity of forming one in connection with the Cathedral,

It was moved by Mr. Balch, seconded by Mr. Tooke,—That such a Society be formed, and that it be called the Cathedral Young Men's Christian Association.—Carried.

Mr. M. H. Gault moved, and Mr. McCord seconded,—That the Bishop be requested to accept Patron.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Gault,—That the officers of the Association consist of a President, two Clerical and two Lay Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and a Committee of Management to consist of seven persons in addition to the officers, who shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

The following were then elected officers: President—The Very Rev. the Dean. Clerical Vice-Presidents—The Canons of the Cathedral.

Lay Vice-Presidents—Mr. Freeman and Mr. Mackenzie.

Secretary—Mr. McCulloch.

Treasurer—Mr. Lyman.

Committee of Management—Messrs. A. Balch, T. Craig, D. R. McCord, T. Skelton, C. D. Hanson, H. S. Evans, and B. Tooke.

It was also resolved on the motion of Mr. H. S. Evans, seconded by Mr. Tooke,—That the Association meet every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in the Chapter House.

The meeting was then closed with prayer.

The proceedings were throughout marked by earnestness and kindly feeling, and warrant the hope expressed by the Chairman that the Association will be one of the most valuable of the many agencies in connection with Christ Church Cathedral.

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.—Divine service was held in all the Episcopal churches in this city on Thursday last, in accordance with a previously issued invitation to the clergy and laity of this Diocese, by His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan.

TRINITY CHURCH.—Gen. Sir C. Hastings Doyle, who is at present on a tour of inspection through this Province, attended divine service at Trinity church on Sunday morning last, (accompanied by his staff) on which occasion His Lordship the Bishop and Metropolitan preached.

SERMON TO YOUNG MEN.—A sermon to young men was preached in Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday evening by the Rev. Canon Baldwin, from the words "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not as unto men." The congregation which was unusually large, listened with profound attention to the discourse, which was one of the most interesting and profitable we remember to have listened to in Christ Church. We hope to have the pleasure of giving our readers a full report of the sermon, or at least copious extracts from it in next issue.

G M Evans