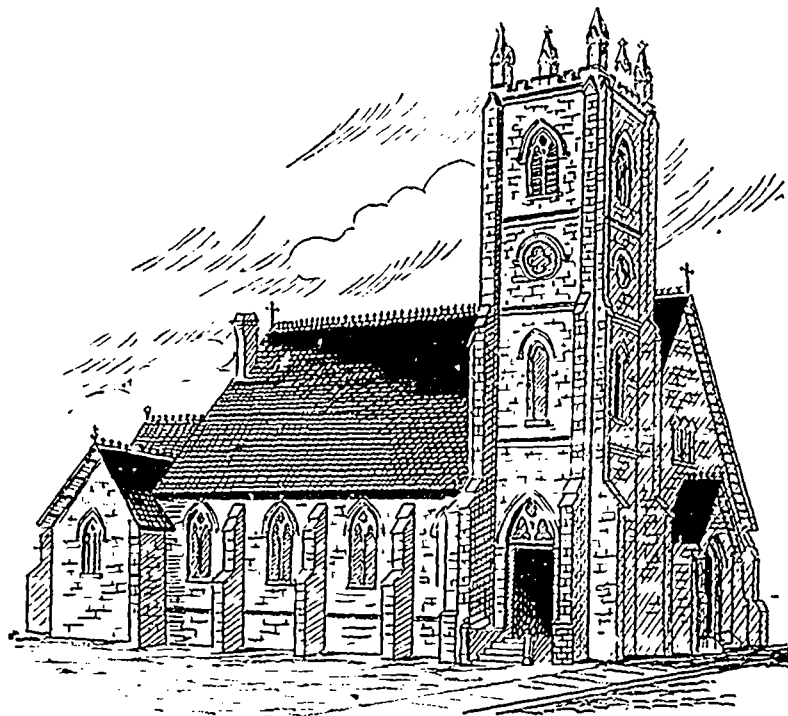




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HAMILTON, ONT.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 43—ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HAMILTON, DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Hamilton, is one of the few instances in Canada of a sacred edifice erected entirely by individual munificence. It was built by money left for the purpose by the late Hon. Samuel Mills, of Hamilton. A mission had been established as early as 1856 by Rev. J. G. Geddes (now Dean of Niagara) in the western part of the city of Hamilton, at a long distance from the parish church, since known as Christ Church Cathedral. Services were maintained here in a frame building till the year 1873, when the congregation moved into the handsome, stone building shown in the accompanying illustration. The site was given by Mr. Mills, and the church erected and provided with an organ by him, all free of debt, and the choir (the first surpliced choir known in Hamilton) was presented with surplices by Mrs. Edward Martin. The church was opened on the 27th of July, 1873, by the Bishop of Toronto (Dr. Bethune), assisted by Archdeacon Fuller, afterwards Bishop of Niagara, and Archdeacon Palmer, of Guelph. Mr. William Fairclough, then a mere lad and now organist of St. George's Church, Montreal, and a musician of no small celebrity, presided on the occasion at the organ.

The church was served from Christ Church by

the rector and curate—Rev. R. G. (now Canon) Sutherland—who officiated in it and the parent church alternately until 1877, when the latter withdrew from the parish and built St. Mark's church, situated not far from All Saints', where he still continues to labor. He was succeeded by Rev. C. E. Thomson, in whose time All Saints' Church was set apart as a separate charge, though still forming part of Christ Church parish. Mr. Thomson having resigned, Rev. Lestock DesBrisay was called to the Incumbency from the Rectory of St. Luke's Church, Montreal. In the interregnum the surplice choir was abolished and has never since been resumed. Mr. DesBrisay accepted the position, but after five years resigned it to accept the Rectory of Strathroy in the Diocese of Huron. In his time it was set off as a separate

parish and established as a rectory, and on his resignation the position was offered to Rev. Dr. Mockridge, Rector in Charge of the Cathedral, Hamilton, but was declined by that gentleman when Rev. George Forneret, M.A., Curate in Charge of St. James' Church, Dundas, was appointed to the Rectory, and has held it most acceptably ever since. He was inducted into the Rectory on the first Sunday in January, 1886, by Rt. Rev. Charles Hamilton, the present Bishop of Niagara. Funds are now being collected to enlarge the church and build a school house, while a mission, known as St. George's, has been established as an offshoot from it.

The church, once the property of the Mills Estate, has been formally and legally made over to the Bishop of the Diocese, the Mills family retaining the right to nominate a rector in case of vacancy,—this right, however, to end with the present heirs. The present Rector, now Rural Dean of Hamilton, was born in Berthier-en-haut in the Province of Quebec and is a graduate of McGill University, Montreal. He was for a time curate to the present Bishop of Huron (Dr. Baldwin), when the latter was Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. For two years he was a missionary in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, where he gained some valuable experience in the work and needs of the North-West, and there now lies before him, what he is in every way qualified to perform, the good solid work of a growing city parish.