



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, GUELPH, ONTARIO.

tion. The work was entered upon with great zeal. The plans chosen by the building committee were drawn up by Mr. Westmacott, civil engineer and architect, now a clergyman of this diocese, and at the close of 1878 the rector removed into the very substantial and handsome building west of the church. So carefully were the specifications drawn up, that the extras on a building that cost about \$9,000 only amounted to \$16. When the rector was inducted a debt remained on the church of about \$6,000. This debt was paid and on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, 1879, the church was consecrated. In his pastoral address, at the next meeting of the Diocesan Synod, the late Bishop Fuller said: "It is the most beautiful church, in my opinion, west of Montreal. On my assuming the charge of this diocese, I found this noble structure complete in all its parts, but burdened with a debt of about \$6,000. Two zealous members of the congregation, Mr. and Miss Elliott, came forward nobly and offered to pay a large proportion of the debt, provided the balance should be raised by their fellow parishioners. The balance was raised, so that their noble church might be consecrated to the service of Almighty God, separating it thenceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses, and dedicating it entirely to God's service." The glorious services of that consecration thrilled every heart. Never before or since in the Province of Ontario has there been anything

approaching it in solemnity and beauty, for unfortunately our large churches are nearly all still burdened with debt. The Bishop of Toronto assisted our own Bishop, and Provost Whitaker preached a grand sermon worthy of the occasion. Arrangements had been made with the managers of the railroads, securing the presence of a very large number of clergy. After describing the perfect arrangements of the processions and services the Bishop proceeds: "It was a proud and joyous day for the churchmen of Guelph, who saw with most grateful hearts their beautiful house of prayer and praise dedicated forever to the service of Almighty God."

Since then the church has fairly prospered, though many devoted and liberal churchmen have passed away, and in few cases have their places been filled by new comers. A very large number of the poorer classes are, however, attached to the church, and a good work is being done among them. A very successful literary association has been established, of which Mr. James

Clarke is president. The Rev. G. A. Harvey, curate, presides over a branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, which is doing much good, and has a large number of members. He has also organized a "Band of Hope and Ministering Children's League," which now has about 140 members, and is becoming very popular. There are also four missions established, two in the town and two in the adjacent country, and a branch Sunday School with about 100 scholars flourishes under the care of Mrs. Saunders. About 500 children are on the Sunday School roll. The principal school is under the management of E. Morris, Esq., Manager Ontario Bank. There are also four classes for religious instruction of adults.

CHRISTIANITY aims at a nobler style of manhood, and at a better and happier style of living. Christianity means friendship carried up into a sphere where, by the natural man, it never could be elevated. It means the purest enjoyments of earth as well as heaven. It means that life shall blossom like Aaron's rod. And every man who is a true Christian, is one who has lived up to the measure of his competency, in a bright and joyful life, compared with which all other lives are ignoble and low.

"To do good and to distribute forget not, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."