

Brethren, friends and neighbours,—You have already heard from those speakers who have preceded me (and especially from the Hon. George Moffat, the Chairman of our Finance and Building Committee,) some details respecting the work in which we are engaged, and the circumstances in which we are placed. It is, indeed, a work of no ordinary importance, and one that will require no small amount of anxious care, thought, and exertion to carry it forward to a successful completion; and most needful is it that we would lay the foundation in the name of that God, to whose service the building is to be dedicated, and implore his aid and blessing. I can imagine few acts in my official life as likely in their consequences and all the effects arising out of them, to be of more importance than that which I have been now called on to perform, and in which you are here to assist, viz., the laying the foundation stone of this new Parish Church and Cathedral. This stone is itself, in its solid and massive substance and its position, a type of the permanence and unity of the faith in Jesus Christ which we profess—the corner stone, which is to knit together the different parts of the building, and the foundation on which it is to rest; while above it there is to be raised the lofty tower and spire pointing to the skies, emblem, too, of the truth we teach, which is, by its holy influence, to raise us up from earth to heaven. Yes, I do believe that what we have this day begun in the name of God will be no ordinary work. Numbers are no certain test of truth, nor must we be too ready to accept the *vox populi* as the *vox Dei*, but whether as members of the Church of England, either in this city or diocese, we are now comparatively many or few, we are, I am sure, a growing body,—one that has within itself tokens of spiritual life and powers of reproduction; and one that is bound, and I hope always ready, to bear witness for the truth of its doctrine and discipline as a branch of the Reformed Catholic Church of Christ, embodying in itself the great principles of "Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order." Having been deprived of our late Cathedral by the accident of a calamitous fire, which has been so feelingly and justly alluded to both by Mr. Moffat and the gallant Colonel, there has been a very general feeling that we ought to take advantage of this occasion to replace it by one more worthy of the present requirements of the Church and the state of the Province. It should not be, however, from any mere spirit of rivalry, because other domes and spires are rising around us, or from a desire (however right that may be in its place) to add another architectural ornament to adorn this, the great Commercial Capital of the Province, that we feel anxious to accomplish such a work, but because when we see the evidence of worldly greatness every where increasing—the private dwelling the mart, the exchange, the bank, the store, advancing in grandeur and magnificence—we ought to work still to dedicate our best to God, and should feel, with David, ashamed to dwell ourselves in houses of cedar, while "the Ark of God is neglected, or left to dwell in tents." It was the remark of the great Edmund Burke, in a letter written to his friends upon the first visit to London, when a very young man, "London is the very pink of vice, but its churches and charitable institutions, whose spires and turrets touch the skies, act like electrical conductors, and avert the wrath of heaven."—But to do this here for us, to avert from us the wrath of heaven, they must not only be begun in the name of God, as we begin this to-day, but continued and ended in the same spirit, and used according to His will. And if there be such a mind in us, we may indeed go boldly forward with our task. From what I have seen in our Finance and Building Committee, (and

I would particularly wish to name our Chairman, Mr. Moffat, to whose judgment, attention and zeal we shall all owe no small debt of gratitude,) I have no doubt that they will do justice to the trust which has been reposed in them: though we have no business to expect that in this judgment or any thing else we shall ever find perfect unanimity of opinion. Some differences that have existed amongst the members of the congregation will, I hope, be all softened down as the work proceeds, and especially since the purchase of St. John's Church, but whether this may be so or not, I can only go upon all, avoiding all unnecessary offences and stumbling blocks, to act conscientiously and endeavour to do what may approve itself to God, and then leave the event with him. As St. Paul says to the Corinthians. "With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment. * * * He that judgeth me is the Lord." The original design for our Cathedral, as sketched out by Mr. F. Wells before his death, will, we hope, be carried out in all its integrity by Mr. F. S. Scott, an architect well known in this Province, and highly recommended to us for his great practical experience, clear judgment, active habits, and general excellence of character, and whom Mr. Wells himself had been very anxious to have had associated with him in the work. The total cost of the building may be expected to be very little under £80,000, towards which, (after paying for the ground of this site, and assisting in purchasing St. John's Church, Gosford Street, for the use of the people at the Eastern end of the city,) about £13,000 will remain yet to be raised. A sum, which, though large in itself for our comparatively small numbers, burdened as we are with all the charges of an aged Church, is yet, in consequence of the circumstances under which we may have to commence this new building, and the amount obtained for the insurance on the old Church, a very moderate outlay for so large and handsome a Cathedral as we may hope to obtain. The architect tells us that the building may be easily completed and ready for use by August or September, 1859, two years and a half from this time. Whether such will be the case must, however, in a great measure, depend upon the spirit by which the members of our Church are moved to give their help. A noble, generous, and self-sacrificing spirit, in connection with works like this, has been increasingly displaying itself of late years amongst the members of our Church in England. I hope we may feel something of a kindred nature here. Then shall our gifts, which we cast into the Treasury, be indeed twice blessed—blessing him that gives, as well as him that receives. And when we look around at this immense assemblage collected here on this occasion, we may surely see in it some evidence of the interest which is felt not only by ourselves, but also by those who are without; while, from the attendance of our own clergy in such numbers and from such distant places, and of our laity of all ranks and professions, and these multitudinous voices of our own numerous Sunday and week-day scholars, we may, I hope, look forward to this as but the commencement—not only of this building as a new Parish Church, but as the Metropolitan Church, the mother of many others, which, knit together with her in unity of spirit and the bond of peace, shall deal forth bread to the hungry, soul and instruction to the ignorant, and gathering under her roof the young and the old, the rich and the poor, shall continue to hand down through many generations that sacred deposit which we have ourselves received.

The Dean of Montreal (Dr. Bethune) concluded the remaining portion of the service, by reading the usual prayers. One of these was to beseech

the Almighty "That the building now begun in Thy Name, may be happily carried on to its complete termination without injury or accident, let or hindrance; and that when completed it may be consecrated and set apart for Thee and Thy service, to the honor of Thy Name, and the salvation of the souls of men, from generation to generation, through Jesus Christ our Lord." May God prosper the work; for unless the Lord build the house their labour is but vain that build it.—May

The gates, adorned with pearls most bright,
The way to hidden glory show;
And thither by the blessed night
Of faith in Jesus' merit, go
All those who are in earth distressed,
Because they have Christ's name professed.

PROVIDENT LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

TORONTO, C. W.

LIFE ASSURANCE & ANNUITIES.

ENDOWMENTS FOR CHILDREN.

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE.

Capital ----- £100,000,

Paid up ----- 11,500.

THE PROVIDENT LIFE ASSURANCE AND Investment Company is now ready to receive applications for Life Assurance in all its branches, and for granting Annuities.

The Directors of the "Provident" are determined to conduct the business of the Company on equitable principles; and, while using every necessary caution in the regulation of their premiums, will give parties assuring every legitimate advantage to be attained by a local company. Having every facility for investing the funds of the Company at the best possible rates of interest, the Directors have full confidence that, should the duration of Life in the British North American Provinces be ascertained to be equal to that of the British Isles, they will be able at no distant day, to make an important reduction in the Rates for Assurance. Till that fact is ascertained they consider it best to act with caution.

The attention of Clergymen is particularly called to the Tables of Rates for Endowment Assurance, and for Deferred Annuities, by adopting either of which, parties may for a small annual outlay secure a comfortable provision for old age.

Tables of Rates and forms for application may be obtained at the Office of the Company,

51 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO,

or at any of the Agencies.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED TO THE END OF VOL. IV.

Rev. G. S. Simcoe; Rev. Dr. W. B. L. Napue; J. L. Montreal; Rev. W. R. Georgina; J. E., Belleville; Rev. C. R. Cobourg.

ROWSELL & ELLIS, PRINTERS, TORONTO.