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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 117.—ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, QUEBEC.

IN the year 1822 the Venerable Archdeacon G. J. Mountain (afterward the third Bishop of Quebec), in his capacity of officiating minister at the Cathedral of Quebec, opened a monthly service on Sunday in French at the burial ground, for the benefit of the Jersey and Guernsey people.

The services were held in a room in the sexton's house. In time, however, the whole house was thrown into one and occupied as a church. In 1827-8 the windows were arched, a cupola built, and a bell supplied, and here very delightful services were held (in English.) The building was known as St. Matthew's Chapel.

But this was destroyed by fire in 1845, to the great grief of Dr. Mountain, who, by that time, had become bishop, but on the 25th of June of the same year the foundation stone of a new chapel was laid and a plain stone structure erected. This was opened for divine service on the 29th of April, 1849, in charge of Rev. A. W. Mountain, curate of the parish of Quebec. Up to 1852, evening services alone were held in this chapel, but in the beginning of 1853 morning services were supplied as well, Mr. Mountain being assisted by a curate, the Rev. A. Cardew, whose stipend Mr. Mountain himself provided.

On February 1st, 1855, Mr. Mountain took charge of St. Michael's (Bergerville). The Rev. Henry Roe (now Archdeacon of Quebec) was then placed over the flock of St. Matthew's as

curate in charge, and a regular district was allotted to him, so that it was no longer what it had hitherto been, a mere chapel of ease to the Cathedral Church.

Bishop Mountain was allowed to retain his salary as rector of Quebec, but a large portion of this he devoted to the maintenance of the city clergy. In this way St. Matthew's received \$700 a year, but, looking toward the future, an endowment fund was formed. To this a devout

widow, Mrs. Woodbury, contributed \$1,000 in 1859. When the Bishop died, in 1863, a special effort was made to increase it, and by the year 1867 the fund amounted to \$5,300. This fund was handed over in trust to the Bishop of Quebec and his successors on condition that the chapel should remain free for ever and the appointment of the incumbent should be vested in the bishop. A sum of money sufficient to relieve the congregation of the duty of maintaining the church was offered as an endowment from another quarter. But as this was coupled with the condition that the appointment of the rector from time to time should be in the hands of certain persons in whom the promoters of the proposed endowment had confidence, it was re-



REV. LENNOX W. WILLIAMS, M.A.,

Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Quebec

spectfully declined by the congregation at a meeting conducted entirely by themselves, no clergyman being present.

In January, 1867, Mr. Roe removed to Richmond, P.Q., and was succeeded in St. Matthew's by Rev. Charles Hamilton, M.A., Oxon., the present Bishop of Niagara, under whose rectorship the parish and its work steadily progressed. A chancel and transepts were added to the building in 1870, at a cost of \$11,000.