

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 62.—ST. ARMAND EAST (FRELIGHTSBURG)
(See last month's issue).

No. 63.—ST. JAMES' CHURCH, PERTH, DIOCESE
OF ONTARIO.



THE first clergyman of the Church of England who officiated in this town, was the Rev. Michael Harris, M.A., T.C.D. He was ordained in 1819, at Quebec, by Bishop Mountain, and appointed to Perth, at that date a mission of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

It was subsequently constituted a rectory in 1836, by Sir John Colborn, and is one of the forty-four completed rectories, in what was then known as Upper Canada. The services of the Church, in the absence of a suitable edifice, were held in "an upper room," in the house of one Mr. John Adamson, on Craig street, and now occupied by Mr. John Fraser.

In 1820, it was resolved to build a frame church on the lot appropriated by the Government for that purpose, in the original plan of the town. It was erected on the site where the present St. James' church stands, and was opened for divine worship on November 16th, 1822. The original church was a plain wooden building fifty feet in length by forty feet wide. Some years later the wants of the increasing congregation were provided for by the addition of a gallery at the west end. The contractor was a Mr. J. Jackson, and among the subscribers to the building fund, outside of the congregation, were His Excellency, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Bishop of Quebec, Sir Peregrine Maitland, and the S.P.G. Society, England. The church-wardens in 1823, were Staff-Surgeon N. F. Thom and C. H. Suche, Esq. In 1827, N. F. Thom and Lieut. Christopher Bell, R.N. In 1829, N. F. Thom and Dr. G. H. Reade. From the minutes of a vestry meeting, we learn that one Wm. McGrath was appointed Parish Clerk, at a salary of £10 per annum.

In the year 1826, the Hon. and Rt. Rev. Charles James Stewart, Bishop of Quebec, fifth son of the Earl of Galloway, held a confirmation at Perth, when seventy-eight persons were confirmed, among them Mr. Thomas Brooke, Town Clerk, of Perth—Clerk of the County Council of the County of Lanark, and a member of the Perth Board of Education for over forty years, who died in June last, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

The Rev. M. Harris did not confine his ministrations to the town of Perth, but held regular services at ten stations in the adjoining townships, and occasionally visited the settlers as far east as the Townships of Pakenham and Fitzroy, on the Ottawa River, and south as far

as New Boyne, in the Township of Leeds. In 1853, Rev. M. Harris resigned the rectory, after industriously serving the Church for thirty three years. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. Pyne, B.A. During his incumbency, the increase of the congregation, both in wealth and numbers, seemed to justify the vestry in taking steps for the erection of a church of stone, somewhat commensurate with their altered and improved circumstances. Plans were procured from Mr. W. Thomas, Architect, Toronto, but when the foundation was laid, on account of the great cost, and from want of funds, the work came to a stand-still, and in July, 1857, the Rev. A. Pyne resigned the parish, and accepted the curacy of Rochdale, Lancashire (Eng.).

The present rector, Rev. R. L. Stephenson, M.A., was appointed by the Rt. Rev. John Strachan, Bishop of Toronto, to the rectory on August 25th following, and entered on his duties on October 8th, 1857.

In the following year the building committee employed Messrs. Fuller & Jones, Architects, Ottawa, to modify the original plans, so that something more approaching a church might be obtained at a cost of two-thirds of the original contract. The contractor was Mr. Samuel Bothwell.

The new church was completed, with the exception of tower and spire, and opened for divine service on November 14th, 1861. The opening sermons were preached by the Bishop-elect of Ontario, Rev. Dr. Lewis, of Brockville, and the Ven. Archdeacon Patton, of Cornwall. The church-wardens were Messrs. H. D. Shaw, and W. A. Playfair. The church, free of debt, was consecrated on October 10th, 1873.

The church fabric consists of sanctuary, chancel, nave, and two aisles, with a tower on the north-west corner. The style of architecture adopted is the early English. There is kneeling accommodation for eight hundred worshippers on the floor, the church is not deformed by galleries.

In 1883 the chancel was further beautified by Mrs. Peter McLaren, who, from designs by Messrs. Darling & Curry, Toronto, placed in the sacarium a handsome reredos, and a magnificent altar frontal cloth, the work of the Ladies' "Church Embroidery Guild," Toronto, and which the *Mail* pronounced to be the handsomest piece of ecclesiastical needle-work ever produced in Canada. The cost was \$1,157.

Again, in 1887, Mrs. McLaren added to the chancel furniture a beautiful pulpit, at a cost of \$320, designed by the same firm, and in keeping with the other chancel fittings. For the more reverent celebration of the Holy Communion, the late Mrs. R. C. Stephenson, wife of the rector, presented to St. James' Church, in memory of her daughter, Mrs. Sieveright Smith, wife of D. S. Smith, M.A., Head of Park Hall, and Professor of Greek in the Preparatory De-