



ST. JAMES CHURCH AND RECTORY THREE RIVERS, P.Q.

Lower Canada half a century ago); Ann MacKenzie, wife of Hon. M. Bell; Hon. Matthew Bell, formerly a member of the Legislative Council and, for more than half a century, lessee of the St. Maurice Forges, (the grandfather of Hon. Judge Irvine, Commissary General Matthew Bell Irvine, C.B., C.M.G., and Colonel James Bell Forsyth, of Quebec); the Rev. S. S. Wood, (the father of S. G. Wood, Esq., barrister-at-law, Toronto, J. W. Humphreys Wood, of St. Catharines, and Edward C. F. Wood, of Port Colborne); the Rev. John Torrance; General Thomas Evans, C.B. (the grandfather of I. F. Hellmuth, Esq., barrister-at-law, London, Ont., and father-in-law of Bishop Hellmuth and of the late Adam Crooks, Q. C., of Toronto).

The memorial to the two last named clergymen is a beautiful stained window in three panels over the chancel. The subject of the centre one, which is more especially in memory of Mr. Wood, is the Good Shepherd.

No space is left for describing the curious old mansion, successively monastery, jail and rectory (the interior of which is now much modernized) except by quoting from the memoir of Bishop G. J. Mountain his pen picture of it:—

"I delight in the character of this strange rambling building, especially in this country where there is so little that approaches to the

venerable in the works of man. The walls are of the most massive thickness, but what I like most is a heavy arch under which you pass to gain the stairs, and the staircase itself, which is very wide, with an antique and cumbrous banister, or balustrade. In the lower part of the building, which is rude and strangely divided, owing to the different uses to which it has successively been put, and in which, although I cannot say that the hands of the builders have been employed 'to raise the ceiling's fretted height,' nor in 'each panel with achievements clothing,' nor in making 'rich windows that exclude the light,' yet there are plenty of 'passages which lead to nothing.'

Not only because of their history and associations are this ancient church and rectory of more than ordinary interest, but also on account of their being one of the few material and visible land marks and witnesses on the shores of the St. Lawrence in French Canada, outside of the cities of Quebec and Montreal, of the existence of the Church of England and to the faith and worship of the ancient Catholic Church amid the surrounding and overwhelming majority and influence of the Church of Rome.

If in the course of Divine Providence, the Church of England of the Empire shall ever prove to be a spiritual Bethlehem Ephratah in the Province of Quebec, may St. James', Three Rivers have its share in bringing about a consummation so devoutly to be wished!—S. G. W.

*Memoir of G. J. Mountain, late Bishop of Quebec, by Rev. A. W. Mountain, page 148. See also p. 223.