
BLOOR STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A. J. McLeod, B.A., of Knox College, who afterwards became principal of the Industrial School, Regina, and whose early death lost to the Church one of its most promising sons.

On November 16th, 1887, the Congregation was formally organized by the Presbytery of Toronto with an enrolment of sixty-three members. On February 19th, 1888, Messrs. D. Fotheringham, R. J. Hunter, Geo. C. Robb, D. Gourlay and G. Crane, having been duly elected, were installed as elders of the Congregation. In due time a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of calling a minister; Dr. Gregg, who presided at this meeting in the absence of Dr. MacLaren, whom Presbytery had appointed interim Moderator of Session, stated at its close that he had presided at many meetings, but at none had there been shown a finer spirit of earnestness and mutual concession. The call issued unanimously in favor of Rev. W. G. Wallace, M.A., B.D., minister of Georgetown and Limehouse, and on September 4th, 1888, he was inducted into the pastoral charge. It is worthy of note, in these days of short pastorates, that he is, after twenty-one years, still the minister of Bloor Street Church.

It was expected that the School-building would fully serve the Congregation for some years, but it had scarcely been opened, before it was seen that it would be utterly inadequate for the rapidly increasing community. It was a time of anxiety. Should the present building be somewhat enlarged? Or, should the erection of a new Church be undertaken? After earnest consideration the latter course was decided upon, and with fine enthusiasm the Congregation entered upon the work. Mr. W. R. Gregg was chosen architect, a large Building Committee was appointed with Mr. Thomas McCracken as Chairman, and all necessary steps taken for the building of a Church capable of seating 1200 persons.