



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BOWMANVILLE.

building was superseded by the erection of a substantial brick edifice capable of holding five hundred people, and having a spacious basement for the purposes of a Sunday school and lectures. The exterior of the church is not without some architectural beauty, while its interior arrangement is well devised for the proper observance of public worship and the due administration of the Holy Sacraments. The organ, although not large, is a sweet toned instrument, presided over with taste and skill by Miss Roche, granddaughter of the rector. The choir numbers about twenty, having recently received an accession of several lads—the nucleus of a boy choir—and is efficiently led by an old member of the choir. The chancel window is of stained glass, and there are two beautiful memorial windows in the nave, one being erected to the memory of the late Rev. Allan Napier Macnab, B. A., eldest son of the rector, and the other to the memory of Rosamond Maud Manning, youngest daughter of Mr. Robert S. Manning. Substantial and useful *thank-offerings* have at different times been made to this church, such as a Communion service, consisting of flagon, chalice, and paten of solid silver and of exquisite workmanship and design, valuable offertory plates and alms' basin, and recently an exceedingly beautiful font, erected at the front entrance, and a costly carved oak altar and reredos, which, with gas to be introduced, will complete the

equipment of the sacred edifice. The taste and zeal of the officials and congregation have been lately evinced by improvements effected in the surroundings of St. John's Church, thus adding to the beauty of its situation on a commanding eminence overlooking, for many miles, a beautifully undulating country and the expanse of the blue waters of Lake Ontario.

## THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MISSION IN ONTARIO.

By MRS. G. A. MACKENZIE.

**T**HE work of the Mission went on with varying success for some years: at one time the black-coated strangers (as they were sometimes called) were accused and persecuted as sorcerers who had brought the pest upon the nation, at another converts thronged the Mission House anxious to escape the wrath of the Great Spirit. So that (as in all missionary undertakings) alternate fears and hopes filled the hearts of the faithful workers.

It had at first been the intention of the Fathers to form permanent missions in each of the principal Huron towns, but the risks and difficulties of this plan soon became evident and in 1640 they resolved to establish one central station to be the base of operations, and as it were, a focus whence the light of faith should radiate through all the wilderness. They chose, therefore, as their site the right bank of the little river Wye (as it is now named), near its entrance into Lake Huron. Here they set up a building at once a residence, fort, magazine, hospital and convent, and called the new station St. Marie.

But the destruction of the tribe was impending. In 1638 the Hurons had waged war successfully against their hereditary foes, the Iroquois, a strong, warlike, and remarkably intelligent nation, occupying the country south of Lake Ontario. How the quarrel between the Hurons and their kindred, the Iroquois, began, no one can tell. For about thirty years there had been comparative quiet; but the Iroquois had been only nursing their hate. The Dutch traders on the Hudson had supplied them with fire-arms and now they were on the war-path vowing the destruction of the Hurons, the Algonquins and the French.

There had been up to 1648 and 1649 a fair harvest of converts in the infant church, both as to numbers and character. Besides the parent Mission at St. Marie's, there was now a church with one or more resident priests which they had piously named La Concepcione, St. Joseph, St. Ignace, St. Michael and St. Jean Baptiste. In March, 1649, there were in the Huron country and its neighborhood, 64 French, lay and cleric, engaged in the mission work. All was method, discipline and subordination. Two or three times in the year they assembled at St. Marie, to take counsel together to determine their future course, and