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"Accommodation," with ten passengers. This is the first vessel of the kind that ever appeared in this harbour. She is continually crowded with visitors. She left Montreal on Wednesday, at two o'clock, so that her passage was sixty-six hours; thirty of which she was at anchor. She arrived at Three Rivers in twenty-four hours. She has, at present, berths for twenty passengers; which, next year, will be considerably augmented. No wind or tide can stop her. She has 55 feet keel, and 15 feet on deck. The price for a passage up is nine dollars, and eight dollars down, the vessel supplying provisions. The great advantage attending a vessel so constructed is, that a passage may be calculated to a degree of certainty. In point of time, which cannot be the case with any vessel propelled by sail, only. The steamer receives her impulse from an open double-spoked, perpendicular wheel, on each side without any circular band or rim. To the end of each double spoke is fixed a square board, which enters the water, and by the rotary motion of the wheel acts like a paddle. The wheels are not kept in motion by steam, operating within the vessel. A mast is to be fixed in her, for the purpose of using a sail when the wind is favorable, which will occasionally accelerate her head-way."

Another steamer called the *Sieftours* was built in 1813, and seems to have been quite a success compared with the *Accommodation*. She had a "ladies' cabin, containing eight berths or couches for repose;" a gentlemen's cabin, "calculated to lodge forty-four persons with convenience, decorated with pilasters, medallions, cornices, curtains, &c., and was 130 feet keel by 24 feet beam. The first passage to Quebec was made in "only 22 hours and a half, notwithstanding the wind was easterly and blowing strong." A few years before the advent of these Leviathan steamers this continent—these vessels that could defy wind and tide—the mail communications of the Province were almost as primitive as those of the Mother Country in the seventeenth century. In the winter of 1792, there was only a fortnightly mail between Montreal and the United States, a monthly mail with England, and a fortnightly mail with the "Upper Countries." In the winter of 1797, a great step was taken,—the mail to Burlington was despatched once a week, and the mail to England every fortnight.

ERSKINE CHURCH.

The large church which has been erected this summer on the corner of St. Catherine and Peel Streets, is for the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Taylor, who, being nearly all residents of the West end of the city, found it necessary to part with their present building, and erect a new one in a more central locality. The foundation was built in the autumn of last year; the works were recommenced early the following spring, and being pushed on with vigour, the walls were built and tower erected, and enclosed by the roofs and spires, in the month of this autumn. The finishing of the interior will be proceeded with this winter, so as to enable the congregation to hold Divine Service there in May next.

The building is 134 feet by 82 over projections,



ERSKINE CHURCH.

Engraved by J. H. Walker for the Montreal Gazette.

90 feet in height from ground to apex of roof, 50 clear height inside. Tower 22 feet square, 120 feet in height, and total height of tower and spire 185 feet. It is calculated that the building will afford comfortable sitting accommodation for 1,200 people.

The style of the church is of the 2nd, or so-called Geometrical period of English Gothic. The walls are built of strong, rubble masonry, faced externally with narrow courses of dark blue limestone, with hammer-dressed rough surface. The windows are pointed throughout with tracery in the heads, and cut-stone jambs and arches. The buttresses have cut-stone quoins and set-offs. The doorways, of which there are five, have cut-stone jambs and arches, the principal entrance having columned jambs and a richly moulded arch. A spacious lobby extends across the whole front, with doorways leading to church and galleries. In the interior the pews are made curved, radiating from the pulpit. The galleries occupy three sides of the church, and are approached by four staircases, one being at either end. The pulpit is in an arched and groined recess at the end, with stained glass windows, platform &c., and will have communication with the minister's vestry, and library, at the back of

the recess. The basement is 14 feet clear height, and is of the whole of the building, forming school room, vestries, &c. The architect is Mr. C. P. Thomas. The contractors are:—For masons' work, Wilson & McFarlane; carpenters' work, McDonald & Holmes; plasterers' work, Phillips & Waad; metal work, G. W. Reed; painting, H. Millen; glazing, J. C. Spence; heating, W. Nicholson.

The congregation of this church organized itself into a religious association in or about the first quarter of the present century, and was constituted at the instance of several Scottish Emigrants connected with the Secession Church of Scotland, who, "when writing to their friends at home, complained of the religious destitution in which they felt themselves here," and ultimately induced the United Associate Synod to send out several ministers. One of these gentlemen, the Rev. Mr. Robertson, arrived here in 1832 and proceeded to form the first Secession Church. The great cholera of that year, however set in, and one of its first and most regretted victims was Mr. Robertson. In the following year the Rev. Messrs. Murray and Taylor were sent out, and directed to complete the good work which Mr. Robertson had begun. The congregation then met in Mr. Bruce's school room, in McGill Street, but this, owing to the impulse the congregation now received, soon proved too small, and the temporary use of the American Presbyterian Church, then fully completed, was requested, and freely and gratuitously granted at such hours as it was not needed by its own congregation. In the meantime the foundations of the building on La Gauchetière Street, now about to be vacated for the more commodious building, depicted in the above

engraving, were laid, and the building was rapidly advancing, when the cholera again set in, and the work had to be abandoned. The first story had then been erected. This was now hastily covered in, and nearly fifteen years elapsed ere the edifice was finally completed in accordance with the original design; the Reverend Wm. Taylor, the present learned and venerable incumbent, being installed as its first pastor. The church then, in 1854, consisted of 200 members, and supported a Sabbath School in connection therewith, which was largely attended, and taught by sixteen or seventeen members of the congregation. The church has since largely increased in numbers and wealth, and is among the most influential in the city. The old building alluded to is a striking example of the truth of Bishop Berkeley's older proverb, that "Westward the star of Empire wends its way." Although in the heart almost of the city, the time is not far distant when it was looked upon as "very unfavorable," on account of its distance from the city." The Pres de Ville market then stood on the site of the ground presently occupied by the Christian Brothers; and Craig Street was an open ditch, crossed here and there by wooden bridges.