

organ was in a blaze. The inflammable nature of the woodwork, together with the fact that the Christmas decorations were still hanging about the church, caused the fire to spread with great rapidity. Before the fire engines could reach the burning building, the flames had already attacked the roof, and it was only after great and long continued efforts that they were at last subdued; almost the whole interior was destroyed. Fortunately, however, the spire, with its beautiful chime of bells, escaped untouched.

No time was lost in setting about the re-building of the church. At a special vestry meeting called for the purpose, and held in the school-room on Jan. 17th, a committee consisting of the Rector and Messrs. A. G. Ramsay, Alexander Bruce, Henry McLaren, J. E. Parker, R. A. Lucas, F. W. Gates and the Wardens (Messrs. Adam Brown, M.P., and Archdale Wilson), was appointed to arrange for carrying out the work.

On June the 17th the reconstruction of the church was actually begun, and was completed by the following spring. In the work of restoration, which was carried out under the able management of Messrs. Darling & Currie, church architects, of Toronto, several important improvements were incorporated in the design. The chancel was entirely re-modelled, making it much more spacious than formerly, and affording room for an organ chamber and ample vestries for the clergy and choir. The interior was handsomely refurnished on an improved plan, and the church

beautifully decorated throughout. The total cost of reconstruction was about \$25,000.

At the opening services, which took place on Sunday, March 4th, 1888, the former Rector, The Very Reverend Dean Carmichael, was the preacher, and the Revs. G. B. Cook, Belt and Miller were present with the Rector, and took part.

Owing to ill-health, Mr. Sloggett had been obliged to resign his position as assistant minister, and the Rev. Chas. E. Belt, who had previously held a mastership in Bishop's College School, Lennoxville, was appointed in his place in October, 1887.

The congregation, which had been worshipping in the school-house during the re-building, having returned to its restored and beautified church, everything now betokened a period of quiet, earnest, work; but it was not long before their quietude was again disturbed by the resignation of Mr. Carmichael. Having accepted a call to an important charge in Richmond, Virginia, he removed there with his family in April, 1889, and the Church of the Ascension was once more without a Rector.

(To be continued.)

What a Little Book Did.

Sir S. A. Blackwood was travelling on the top of a coach from London to Croydon, and after discussing the topics of the day with one who sat beside him, he turned the conversation to the things of heaven, to the disgust of another passenger sitting near who talked of "canting