



ST. ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, TORONTO.

The portion of it now built.

extension of the city, central and desirable, for the purpose of erecting thereon the following buildings, in the order in which they are enumerated:

"1. A church or chapel, to be under the immediate direction of the bishop of the diocese, for the celebration of daily cathedral service, and for such other special purpose as may appear to the bishop from time to time expedient; the dimensions of such church or chapel to be determined with a view to its being available at all seasons of the year for the daily services of the Church.

"2. A synod hall and offices, whereby the Church will be relieved from the burden imposed upon it by the necessity of renting a synod office.

"3. An episcopal residence or see house, an object in itself most desirable.

"A contribution averaging fifty cents each for every member of the Church in the diocese, to be raised by two equal annual instalments, would go very far towards the accomplishment of the object proposed."

The synod accepted the report of this committee, and passed in connection with it the following resolutions:

"1. That the synod pledges itself to use its best endeavors to carry out the proposals in the report which has just been adopted by raising within each parish or mission in the diocese, by two yearly instalments, a sum averaging fifty cents for every member of our Church within that parish or mission, according to the census of 1871.

"2. That the clergyman, lay representatives and churchwardens of each parish do constitute themselves a committee to collect the sum of fifty cents for each member of our Church according to the census of 1871, for the purpose of raising the buildings proposed as a memorial to the late Bishop Strachan."

Nothing, however, came of this movement till Archdeacon Sweatman, of the diocese of Huron, was elected Bishop of Toronto, when, shortly after his election, the new bishop turned his attention to it with much vigor, and in 1881 addressed the synod at some length on the revival of the Cathedral System, laying particular stress upon what is its chief feature of practical usefulness in the position and needs of a modern Colonial Church—not so much a costly structure with ornate services, as the organization of a body of efficient canons to act as an Advisory Council to the bishop, and to devote themselves to the missionary and educational interests of the diocese.

These views were approved by resolution of the synod, and the Executive Committee, after many negotiations, secured in December, 1884, from the proprietors of the St. Alban's Park Estate a site suitable for the proposed buildings. It consisted of about four and a half acres, and the purchase price was \$10,488.

A portion of this property was set apart for a see house and a comfortable residence erected thereon for the bishop. The territory in which this property was situated was, at the time, outside the city limits, in the region of "Seaton village"; but it has since been incorporated within the civic bounds, and has become a favorite tract for private residences. Building went on very rapidly, until the cathedral property became the centre of an important population. Bishop Sweatman chose for its name that of St. Alban the Martyr, and the land in its immediate vicinity was called by a by-law of the township "the district of St. Alban's."

The desire of the bishop at first—as set forth in his lordship's pastoral of 1886, from which we have already freely quoted—was to complete, as far as possible, the organization of a cathedral staff for the purpose of assisting in diocesan missionary work before attempting the erection of any part of the building. And it would have been better, no doubt, as events have turned out, if this plan had been adhered to, but a very strong inducement—one which certainly ought not to have been ignored—was made by a commercial company called the St. Alban's Park Syndicate for the immediate commencement of the cathedral edifice. This company, having previously donated to the chapter half the purchase money of the site, made a further offer of \$2,000 on condition that the choir and chancel of the cathedral were commenced on the 23rd of August, and completed before the end of the year. This offer was accepted and, in accordance with it, the portion of the building shown in our first illustration was erected.

But this has involved the chapter in financial difficulties from which, unless some timely aid arrives, it will be impossible to extricate itself. In a recent appeal issued by the Rural

Dea
city
mg
hop
ront
yet,
cult
cler
con
perc
and
inte
is a
uni
kee
wel
tair
the
If t
ere
ly :
to 1

"3

kin