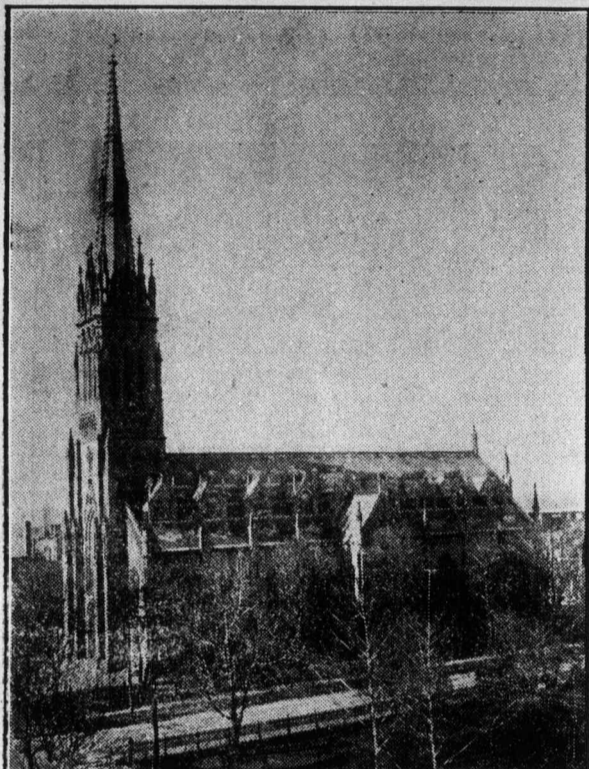


# Toronto's Cathedral and Its Powerful Auxiliaries

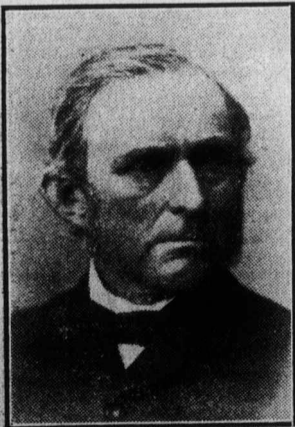


ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL.

THE CATHEDRAL PARISH, that of St. Michael, is by far the most important of our city parishes. The fact of its being the metropolitan would in itself give it this prominence, but this is added too by its position in the very heart of the city, by its architectural and artistic beauty, and by the number, organization and completeness of the many societies and institutions connected with it.

Facilities for carrying on the services and ceremonies of the Church are probably to be found here more readily than elsewhere in Upper Canada. The capacity and appointments of the interior of the Cathedral, the energy and ability of the resident priests—the late rector Rev. Father Ryan, was an admired and beloved example—the complete and efficient choir—form an environment and means for carrying on the worship of the Church with that elaborateness of detail, seldom found outside of those countries known to the world as Catholic.

The frequent presence too of our present Venerable Archbishop in his Cathedral Church on many Sundays and feasts throughout the year,



MR. EDWARD STOCK.

adds greatly to the eclat and interest of those occasions, and it is with no small pride that Toronto Catholics introduce their beautiful Cathedral to visitors when some grand function is being held, or great feast celebrated.

The Cathedral was begun by Bishop Power in 1845, and was dedicated Sept. 29th, 1848. The fact that several churches have been since built—two very fine ones of quite recent date—and that none, even with the advantages and march of modern science and improvement, have succeeded in surpassing or even equaling St. Michael's either in architec-

tural requirements or artistic attractiveness, speaks much for the projectors and designers who began their work nearly sixty years ago.

The excavation for the building was begun on April 7th, and the corner-stone laid on May 8th. These dates vouch for the expedition with which the work was done. The recital of the manner in which this was accomplished, will even at this day bring a glow of pleasurable remembrance to the faces of those who were amongst the volunteer excavators for the new church. Men from all ranks of Toronto's citizens offered their services; those with high-sounding titles worked literally shoulder to shoulder and spade by spade with the humblest laborer in the city's ranks. "Yes," said one who described the scene, "all were there, Protestant and Catholic, and I remember the Hon. Captain Elmsley working in his shirt-sleeves, as hard as he could go at it, and he a convert too." At the end of the day's labor an ox was roasted on the space cleared, and butchers and takers and all others contributed their quota, and a feast was held to which the workers did ample justice, and the remembrance of which still lives, on account of the uniqueness of its conception and carrying out.

THE CATHEDRAL.—On entering the beautiful city of Toronto, amongst the many and varied objects that meet the eye, none rises higher or more gracefully towards the upper firmament than the tall and slender spire of St. Michael's. Be the time of entering a night in summer, when the bay upon which the city stands, is at its best; its placid waters rippling in the moonlight, undisturbed save by the touch of the lightly moving skiff, the dip of the regularly falling oar or the heavier passage of the busy tug or deeply laden steamer, when the varied colored lights from the Island twinkling in and out amongst the dark foliage make the scene one of fairy-land, and the greater lights from the main shore outline the city's limits, then the tall tower of St. Michael's surmounted by its glistening cross of gold is conspicuous amongst the many conspicuous towers and turrets that form the upper stratum of our city streets.

Be the entry in winter, when heaven's white mantle envelopes all things below, and our dwellings of brick, and buildings of stone look bare and brown by contrast, there is always one object that retains its warm and welcoming attitude, and that object is the burnished and glistening spire of St. Michael's, the Cathedral Church of the large and ever-growing diocese of Toronto.

St. Michael's is gothic in architecture, 190 feet in length by 115 feet in width on the outside, and 182 feet by 80 feet—exclusive of the transepts—interiorly. There are 8 decorated arches in the building giving an elevation of 66 feet to the nave, and 45 feet to the side aisles, (Jubilee Volume). Four side chapels or altars, are within its walls, that of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph to the right and left of the main altar, and a mortuary chapel and altar of the Sacred Heart in the transepts.

As bishop succeeds bishop, and year follows year, St. Michael's is gradually changed and embellished. A large and grand stained glass window behind the main altar, representing the Crucifixion, and the work of the artist Thevenot, was imported from France by Bishop de Charbonnel. Several fine windows have lately been added in memory of departed friends by the parishioners, and one representing the Last Supper below which is a figure of the late Archbishop Lynch, to whose memory the window was given by Bishop O'Connor of Peterborough. Amongst the several statues that adorn the interior is a magnificent representation of the "Mother of Sorrows." This was one of the last gifts of Archbishop Walsh, in whose time the entire building was renovated, a chapel was also added—at the entire cost of \$40,000. During the process of renovation the



INTERIOR OF ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL.

whole underwent a change; windows were added to the roof which prove both useful and ornamental, and the interior was preserved in harmonious and bright coloring; cream, terra-cotta, rose, light blue, silver and gold being used largely in the design. The high altar is separated from the side altars by a high open railing, reminding one in its workmanship of the flagrae of fine gold. Handsome carpet in crimson lines the sanctuary; oak seats for the acolytes have lately been added and the late gift of the Altar Society—electric lights in red and gold for the high altar, at a cost of \$600—leave little to be desired or added to the general embellishment of the Church. The spire crowned by the great gilt cross rises to the height of 260 feet; it was completed, by Archbishop Lynch in whose time also the fine iron fence and large organ were placed in position. The Church is capable of seating 1,800 parishioners. The priests now at the Cathedral are Rev. Dr. Treacy and Rev. Fathers Rohleder, Canning and Minnehan.

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE.—Just behind the Cathedral on Church street, is St. Michael's Palace, built by Bishop Power, and completed even prior to the Cathedral. It is a large oblong building of white brick, with a not unimposing exterior, but having little pretension to

the name "palace" in the eye of the present generation, except from the fact that it is the official residence of the head of the diocese. Doubtless in the days of its early history it seemed by contrast with its surroundings all that its name implies, but in these latter days when modern appliances and improvements are found on our most ordinary dwellings the "Palace" seems comfortless and not of present date. This, of course, is a judgment made from outside appearances, and a view of the hall and reception room—the only parts with which the public are familiar. The room into which the visitor is shown is ugly in its grandeur of dark wall and costly paintings of departed prelates, of furniture stiffly arranged, of carpet in glaring and inharmonious colors and in its utter absence of anything home-like or hospitable. If the rest of the house be in keeping with that which meets the public eye, then it we had our choice we should prefer the simplicity of the humblest, home-like, country parish house to the grandeur of St. Michael's Palace.

PARISH SOCIETIES.—This parish is prolific in societies, and amongst these, one of the most interesting is that of the "Pope's Militia." This is for boys and young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two. Sixteen circles, each containing fifteen associates, are in active membership; the members go to confession and approach Holy Communion four times during the year. The object of this society is to fill a long felt want—that of keeping a kind and guiding hand upon the boy when leaving school and who often finds himself without restriction either at home or abroad. The social aspect of the society and the genial air with which the rules



REV. FRANCIS RYAN.

Late Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral.

tricts and allots to different members the territory which they must visit during the year. On their visits the ladies carry with them words of comfort, and see to the dispensing of food, fuel and clothes. Were it not for the labors of these charitable women, many children now comfortably clothed and fed, would be unable to attend school, owing to the poverty of their parents. The heads of this praiseworthy organization are Mrs. Murray and Mrs. French.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society, president, Mr. J. J. Murphy, is here as elsewhere a "power in the land." Last year they celebrated their silver jubilee of work in Toronto, what they did during the fifty years previous is only recorded by the angels, and in this record, St. Michael's branch stands high. A conference of all the branches is held annually in this parish, and on these occasions the Archbishop is always present as the presiding officer.

This Society is here as in many other cities, the banner charitable organization.

THE INSTITUTIONS.—A new school house, presenting a very handsome appearance, has just been completed at a cost of \$25,000. It stands on Bond street on the ground adjoining the Church. It is 8 roomed, accommodates 400 children, and is taught by 8 teachers, a gymnasium for small boys is a feature of the school.

The Catholic High School or De La Salle Institute is also within range of St. Michael's. Here the boys are under the tuition and control of the Brothers, who do excellent work in equipping a boy with a business education, type-writing, stenography and drawing being amongst their specialties.

The High School for girls is under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who for the past fifteen years have done most creditable work in the way of preparing their pupils for the departmental examinations of the province, at which they have always obtained a very fair standing.

On Bond street is the Convent of Loretto, a school and academy for girls. This is the last of the group of buildings occupying the square on which the Church, school and palace are situated.

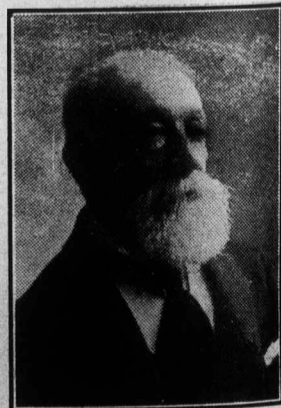
On Victoria street stands St. Nicholas' Home for Boys. This is amongst his oldest of the parish institutions, and is under the supervision of the Sisters of St. Joseph, with Mother Stanislaus as present superioress. Here many a boy with-

out a home finds one. Those who can do so pay for their "board," but this is by no means compulsory, or in the majority of cases.

The Sunday School is well organized, and attendance made interesting. The children, with the exception of the highest class of girls and boys, are taught in the schools. After catechism they march to the Church in charge of their teachers, where they sing the music at the Benediction then given, listen to an instruction. Rev. Doctor Treacy has general charge of the Sunday School, and in addition teaches the class of senior girls and boys, fifty-five in number.

Rev. Father Rohleder, who is chancellor of the diocese, is always busy in the work of this office, the labors of the parish, and in the promotion and care of the music of the Church—a subject in which he has been always interested.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL.—No description of the parish would be complete without reference to St. Michael's Hospital, which stands on the same street as the Church—



MR. PATRICK HYNES.

Bond—and within a good stone-throw from it. The Hospital was established in July 1892. Its situation renders it easy of access, and this of course, is a factor in bringing about its usually plethoric state with regard to patients. But there are other causes, amongst which is the name it bears of having the best equipped surgical department in Canada. The building is not altogether new, part of it being the old "Notre Dame" home, designed principally for students attending the Normal School in days gone-by. The new wing was built, and fully furnished by the late Mr. Hugh

Ryan, and now stands as a monument to the charity of that gentleman for the nurses and a Victoria street, and ed with the building forty nurses are usual and when all space is pital accommodates its central position a larly—for it is a high all creeds and classes largement of the hospital matter of necessity this will be seen to ture. The institution control of the Sisters with Mother Assumptio perioress. Its staff of the city's most cians and surgeons phere of the hospital and cheery as floods spotless wards, fresh plants, cheerful nurs cutured service can need dread a visit or Michael's, the city's tal.

TO GLANCE B... time sixty years... the present site o... edral was a swam... road leading to i... apparent likelih... ever nearing the... the city; when m... it almost fool-har... least unwise for t... to dream of build... and when the h... himself must sur... had come qualm... not but admire... faith which prom... idea and the ca... which made its ca... possible. Bisho... bought the site at... of £1,800 out of... vate funds, and... Hon. Captain Elm... security for £25... erect the buildi... Now, even with th... late improvements... only a debt of \$8... it, and the peop... edly and proudly... they are less "ta... any other people i... Money is seldom... from the pulpit... needed is genera... coming.

So far from the... being remote from... it is now the very... self; the march to... vancement of our... all westward, and... be no remote co... to find ourselves w... ditional Cathedral... site of what is no... our humbler city c...

OUR PRELATES.—T... Upper Canada was div... 17th, 1841, and on th... Very Rev. Michael P... the first bishop of th... of Toronto. Quoting fr... blec Volume" of the... ten to commemorate th... of its existence, and to... indebted for many of... past history present... sketches—we learn th... bishop "was recognized... as the man best fitt... dom, firmness and piet... work of founding a r... and also that "in choo... his Episcopal See th... ogized in that city no... most populous commu... province, but also the... polis of the future, th... wealth and influence, th... culture and the fine art... That the Bishop was... phet, the present state... proves.

Bishop Power was th... sea captain, and was l... fax, Nova Scotia, on O... 1804. He was educat... inaries of Montreal... the former of which l... the early age of twelve... was ordained when in... and given different cha... Canada, amongst the l... that of Vicar-General...