

HISTORICAL.

THE necessity for a larger Cemetery near the city was forced upon the attention of the citizens early in 1847. The Old Burial Ground within the limits of the city was about to be closed by law, and the ground near the Marsh Bridge, which exclusively belonged to the Church of England, with a small area, was rapidly filling up, while the population of the city was gradually increasing. Under these circumstances a number of public spirited citizens, desiring to interest in the scheme all classes and denominations, prepared and addressed a circular to the office-bearers of the several churches in the city, pointing out the crowded condition of the cemeteries then in use and appealing to them to join in the effort to procure a larger one. All responded to this appeal except the Roman Catholics and Methodists, they having cemeteries of their own. The result was the appointment of a general committee to select a site and place the scheme on a business basis. After a lengthened and labored investigation of all the localities in the vicinity of the city likely to be suitable for the purpose, the committee concluded to purchase seventy acres of land from James Peters, Junior, Esquire, and forty acres from Henry Gilbert, Esquire, forming a part of the present site of the Cemetery. The price paid for this property was ten thousand four hundred dollars, a lot being reserved for each of the proprietors. A subscription list for stock in a proposed company was then prepared. Each share was placed at ten dollars, and in a very short time the stock was all taken up. A meeting of these stockholders was immediately held, when twelve directors were chosen, who prepared a bill for the incorporation of the company, which was finally enacted by the Legislature of the Province on 30th March, 1848.

By the terms of this Act, it will be seen that the capital stock of the company was twelve thousand dollars, which was expended in paying the purchase money of the property, and in laying out and improving the grounds. As lots were sold this stock was paid off and cancelled, and there is none of it now outstanding.

Last year (1897) the Cemetery was enlarged by the purchase of the adjoining property, making the total area now to be one hundred and forty-four and a half acres.