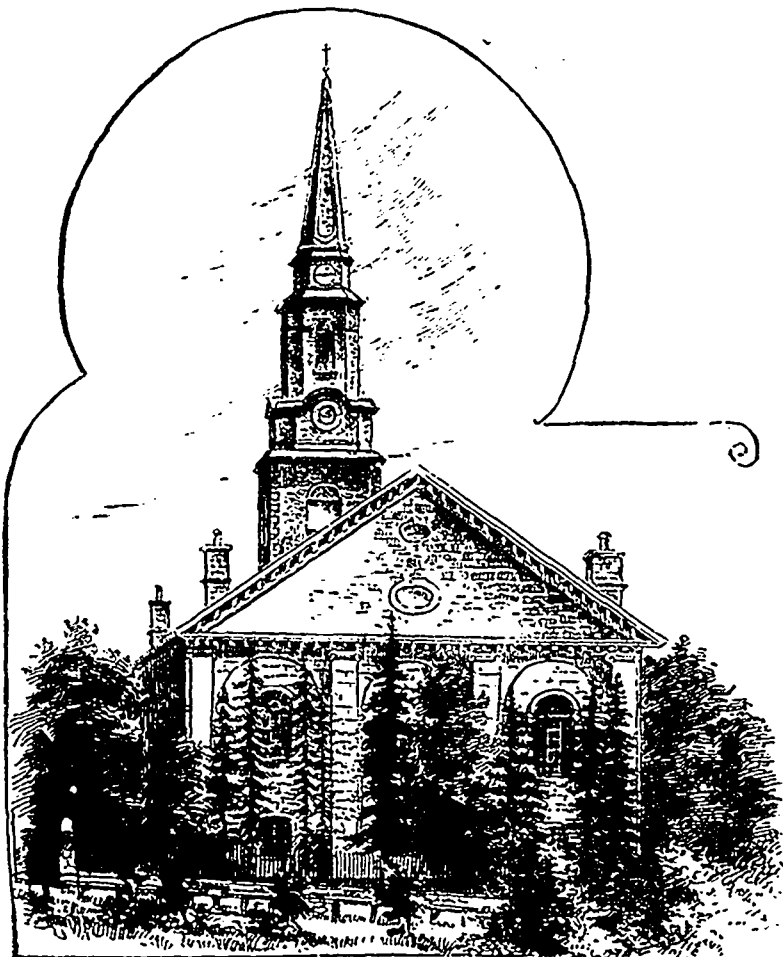




CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, QUEBEC.

In 1796 the Recollet convent and church were destroyed by fire, a disaster which led to the dispersion of the fathers. One of them took to mending clocks, another opened a school, another worked at gardening and so on, and the British Government took possession of the convent property, on a portion of which the Court house was built in 1804.

After the burning of the Recollet church, the services of the Church of England were held in the Jesuits' church, situate about the corner of St. Anne and Garden streets.

The Protestant population in Canada had greatly increased, so much so that, in 1791, provision was made by the King for the maintenance of the clergy of the Church of England, then the established Church in Canada, by means of a reservation of one seventh of all the lands at the disposal of the Crown, which was called the "Clergy Reserves." That same year Canada was divided into the two provinces called Upper and Lower, the former being almost entirely Protestant. In 1793 the King decided to erect these provinces into a diocese to be called the

Bishopric of Quebec, the Letters Patent of which were issued, dated June 28th, 1793, and on recommendation of the Bishop of Lincoln, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed Dr. Jacob Mountain Lord Bishop of Quebec.

That year there were but nine Church of England clergymen in the two provinces, viz: six in the Lower and three in the Upper, five of whom were missionaries of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," and the remaining four were paid by Government. The churchmen of Quebec and Montreal were ministered to by two clergymen in each town, but the arrival of the Bishop put new life and energy into the Church.*

The first curate of Quebec was Rev. Philip Toosey, who died in 1797, when the Government appointed Rev. Salter Jehoshaphat Mountain, the bishop's nephew, to succeed him.

As yet no Anglican church had been built in Quebec, and the bishop solicited King George III. on the subject. We are told that the King, at his own expense, proceeded to build this

church in 1799, and the site chosen was that of the Recollet property, which the Government had taken possession of, and there the church, known as the Cathedral, stands to-day. The necessary funds for its erection were provided by the Commissariat Department, in sums of £300 at a time. The first stone was laid August 11th, 1800, and the corner stone was laid by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and the following document placed therein:

Glory to God in the Highest!

"Of this Metropolitan Church of Quebec, erected by the pious munificence of His Majesty George III., King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, the first stone was laid by His Excellency R. S. Milnes, Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Jacob, Lord Bishop of this diocese, the Hon. Wm. Osgoode, His Majesty's Chief Justice for the Province, the Hon. Sir George Pownall, Kt., member of the Legislative Council, Jonathan Sewell, Esq., Attorney-General, and the Rev. Salter J. Moun-

* See Mr. Wurtel's pamphlet, p. 73.