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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 114.—ST. JAMES' CHURCH, SOUTH LONDON.



THE history of this church is that of marked progress. Many years before there was a church in the neighborhood, services were held in a school-house by the Rev. John McLean, afterwards Bishop of Saskatchewan. Rev. Mr. Innes, now Dean of Huron, and the late Rev. J. Smythe.

In the year 1872, Mrs. Cronyn collected some few hundred dollars for the purpose of having a little church built in what was then a suburb of London, the intention being that Bishop Cronyn would hold afternoon services in it. However, the good bishop was called to his rest that year. The few church people in the section worked faithfully for the accomplishing of this purpose, and in November, 1873, a little brick church (24 x 40) was opened. It cost \$2,400. The Rev. Evans Davis was appointed the first rector in February, 1874.

From very small beginnings, this congregation grew until the church was not able to accommodate those who desired to attend. With a considerable debt still on the old building, the erection of a new church had to be faced. In 1876, with a subscription list of only \$2,400, the church shown in the accompanying illustration was undertaken. It was then considered a great venture of faith. The nave is 42 x 82, with chancel, vestry, and organ chamber. The building was opened for divine service by Bishop Hellmuth on the 18th of November, 1877. It has seating capa-

city for 624 persons. It is built of brick, and very nicely situated. Being in the township of Westminster, it failed to receive any aid from the rectorial endowment (the rectory lands being in London township), and is thus the only self-supporting church in the city. It has now been proposed to put an addition to it, so as to accommodate the increasing congregation.

The first church was used for Sunday-school purposes, but soon became too small. An addition, at the cost of over \$1,000, was put to it. In the course of some years it was found that this building was not up to the wants of the parish, and in 1893 it was taken down and a new one, 42 x 62, with three galleries, parish room, class rooms, kitchen, and all modern conveniences, erected in its place, at a cost of nearly \$6,000.

The rectory is a fine brick building, with all modern improvements, and very conveniently situated about one hundred and fifty yards from the church, though not in the church grounds. The entire debt on the whole church property is now only three thousand dollars.

The Venerable Archdeacon Davis, M.A., Rector of St. James' Church, London, Ontario, is well known throughout western Ontario. Though having some Welsh blood in his veins, he was born in Ireland on May 20th, 1848. He has lived in Canada since he was about five years old. He is the second youngest son of the late Rev. W. Davis. He received his earlier education in Quebec, Toronto, and the west. He attended the London Grammar School, under the late Rev. Benjamin Bayly. He took the



THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON DAVIS, M.A.,

Diocese of Huron.