



OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

NO. 88. THE PARISH OF BEETON AND TOTTENHAM.

THE parish now called Beeton and Tottenham has come into existence so very lately that any sketch of it must necessarily be largely that of the parish from which it was taken, viz., Tecumseth.

In the earlier days of the Church in this country, the parishes, although surveyed, were practically without boundaries. Regular appointments like the present were impossible, because the field was so large that the missionary could never tell just what time he would be in a certain place. The most efficient way was to hold a service where the largest number of people could be collected, usually in some farmer's house. The missionary roamed over

the forests in search of his sheep. Such was his work in the parish of Tecumseth in its pioneer days.

The first work of the Church among the early settlers was begun by men from the mother land. Mr. Elliott came from England in 1834, and Mr. O'Neill from Ireland in 1835; but owing to the difficulties of travel and of living, they could do but very little definite Church work. The people were poor, like most settlers of those days. Potatoes and seed grain had to be carried from Muddy York (Toronto) up Yonge Street to its very end, which is not very far from Tecumseth. And that, too, on men's backs, for the roads in spring were almost impassable, especially for oxen or horses.

The first resident clergyman was the Rev. F. L. Osler (now Canon Osler), who arrived in June, 1836. He was an excellent man for the work, and entered into it with vigor. Taking up quarters with a man named Mairs, he explored the dense forests, and discovered here