

FRANCIS FULFORD, D. D.,
Bishop of Montreal.
JOHN BETHUNE, D. D.,
Dean of this Cathedral
And Rector of this Parish.
SAMUEL GILSON, M. A.,
Canon of this Cathedral
And Archdeacon of Montreal.

JOHN DYDE, Esq.,
WM. FRASER, M. D., } Churchwardens.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Mr. Justice John Joseph Knapp, Esq.
S. McCord. Thomas Mussen, Esq.
Thos. B. Anderson, Esq. Frederick Penn, Esq.
David Kinner, Esq. George Smith, Esq.
Robert Smith Tylee, Esq.

Together with the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop, the very Reverend Rector, the Dean, the Venerable the Archdeacon, and the Churchwardens of Christ Church Cathedral.

This Building was designed by Frank Wills, Esq. Architect, and, in consequence of his death, was executed by T. S. Scott, Esq.

Christ Church, the former Parish Church and Cathedral, founded in the year 1805, and situated in Notre Dame Street, in this city, was destroyed by fire on the 10th day of December, 1850.

The following papers and coins were at the same time deposited in the foundation stone:

Annual Report of the Church Society for the year 1856; the Montreal Herald and Gazette; the former containing the account of the enthronization of the Lord Bishop of Montreal. Letters patent and certificate of consecration and sermon preached by his Lordship on the occasion; and the latter an account of the conflagration of the late Cathedral.

A wood cut of the burning; Acts incorporating the Church Society, and Temporalities Act of 1852; Annual Report of the Churchwardens of Christ Church Cathedral—1857.

Coins:—A Sovereign, half Sovereign, Crown, Florin, Shilling, Sixpence, Fourpence of the reigning Sovereign.

The order of the Procession, and office of laying the foundation Stone of this Cathedral.

The Hon. George Moffatt, addressing the Bishop, said, they had assembled for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of their new Cathedral and Parish Church, to replace the one destroyed by fire. The loss of that venerated building had been a cause of much grief to many among the congregation, some of whom it had seen it built, and hoped within its sacred walls during the remainder of their days to have offered up their supplications of prayer and praise with the Divine blessing. But Providence had ordered it otherwise. Their beautiful house had been destroyed by fire, and its destruction was complete. Nothing of the Cathedral remained save the bare walls, and whether to rebuild upon these or not, was for some time the great question. The congregation promptly obeyed the request of their venerable pastor to assemble and discuss this matter, and it was gratifying to declare the unanimity with which they decided upon not rebuilding on the old site. They resolved to dispose of it and select another in a less confined situation, having regard also to the extension of the city westwards. The Rector and Churchwardens felt it their duty to rebuild the Church with the least possible delay. But they had been compelled to spend some time in examining and deciding upon a proper site, and this had excited more diversity of opinion than was at first anticipated. The present ground had been selected by a large majority of the congregation of the Church, and he thought he might say their decision was pretty well acquiesced in by the minority.

The Hon. gentleman proceeded to give the dimensions of the new Cathedral, which he said would be built in the Gothic style of architecture, and in a cruciform shape: its length from end to end being 212 feet. It was calculated to accommodate from 1400 to 1600 persons, and arrangements for the poor in the proposed plan had not been neglected. The death of the talented architect who designed the Church had delayed the completion of the plan and estimates for the building. But these had now been procured, and the cost of the Cathedral, inclusive of spire, bell and clock, was put down at £30,000. For the latter adjuncts it was supposed £8,000 would be sufficient. The available means at the disposal of the Building Committee was about £24,000; added to this there was a sum of £2,000 insured on the organ and church property; but it would be seen there was still a large margin to be made up by voluntary subscription, and it was much to be desired that the appeal should be liberally responded to, so as to render it unnecessary to solicit any aid from abroad. In conclusion he had now to offer his Lordship, on the part of the Building Committee, the trowel he held in his hand. It had been made for the occasion and was intended to remain in his Lordship's family as a memento of the proceedings of this day. And he had also to invite the Bishop to lay the corner stone of what, he hoped, would prove not only an ornament to the diocese, but a blessing to all around.

The Bishop accepting the trowel, and the stone having been adjusted, he proceeded to spread the mortar, and then repeated the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I lay this corner stone of an edifice to be here erected by the name of Christ Church, to be the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of Montreal, and the Parish Church of Montreal, in accordance with the discipline and doctrine of the United Church of England and Ireland.

Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, even Jesus Christ, who is God over all, blessed for evermore; and in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

The 100th Psalm having been sung, Major Campbell, C.B., addressed the meeting. He esteemed it no small honor to be allowed to take part in the interesting proceedings of to-day; and he rejoiced in the opportunity thus afforded him of testifying to the deep interest which the country laymen (of whom he was one) took in the progress and prosperity of that branch of Christ's Church of which they were members. Whatever the decision of their Most Gracious Sovereign might be as to the place where the Seat of Government was to be permanently fixed, Montreal would always retain its proud renown as the first commercial city of British North America. He felt anxious, then, that her buildings of this character should do honor to the proud position which she occupied. The low state of architecture which generally prevailed throughout this Province was as humiliating as it was striking, and was open to the criticism of the merest tyro in the science. What a contrast between our churches here and the magnificent old cathedrals, or just as stately parish churches which adorned and beautified the different countries of Europe. There they stood, the pride and the boast of christianity and civilization pointing their spires to heaven, and showing even in their internal arrangements, that they were but types, representing the glorious reality to be found beyond the grave.

It might be said that this was a land of liberty, and that every man might build as he pleased. To a certain extent he would admit this. His remarks did not apply to private buildings, whose

form and shape depended in a great measure upon the taste of those by whom they were erected. But Governments and Corporations had more to consult than mere individual whim or caprice. They ought to build not for themselves, but for posterity—not to answer their own tastes, or needs now, but with some regard to those who should succeed them. He was aware that a rabid cry of "economise, economise," was going round the Province. He implored his hearers not to listen to that: he said the people would be wrong if they were guided by it. Let them not be deterred from doing their duty by any such cry; nor follow the vagaries of any blundering blockhead who pretended to be an architect simply because it might save themselves money, and him, perhaps, time and trouble. A building such as they were now about to erect should serve as a model for future architects, and raise the taste of the general mass. He might have spoken strongly on this subject, but he felt strongly. He believed a high destiny awaited this Province, and that Montreal would have no small share in accomplishing it. Let us prepare for it then, that when we are called upon to take our place among the nations of the world, we would be found wanting in none of those essentials which this enlightened age requires. It had been said and often said, that this Canada was destined to be a great Republic. Well, if it were so, let it at least unite the learning of the present age with the taste of ancient days—with the beauty, the elegance, refinement and grace which distinguished, beyond all others, the classic land of Greece. (Cheers.) He hoped and trusted that not only the members of the Church in Montreal, but churchmen throughout the diocese, would be alive to the responsibility which rested upon them, and to the expectations they had given rise; and it was his earnest hope that a building would be raised, adapted not only to the wants of this growing diocese, but beautiful and chaste in its every proportion.

The Rev. Mr. Scott, one of the Bishop's Chaplains then came forward and delivered a very interesting discourse, shewing that from the earliest times it was the habit of the people to erect buildings more or less spacious and gorgeous—according to their tastes and developments—for the worship of that Being whom they sought to entreat, to worship, or to propitiate. He also referred to the magnificence of Solomon's temple, and impressed upon the people their obligation to make the House of God worthy of Him who inhabits there.

The Bishop stated that General Lyre had that morning sent him a telegraph from Sorel expressing his regret at being unable to be present, and called upon Lieut. Col. Munroe to say a few words on the occasion.

Col. Munroe apologised for presuming at such short notice to address such an assembly. But he and his brother officers felt a great interest in the new building—almost as much as they did in the one where hitherto they had worshipped. Montreal had been their first resting place after they had left the Crimea, and the late Christ Church Cathedral was the first consecrated temple where they had offered up their supplications for being preserved during the late disastrous war. He hoped the new building would surpass the old one, both in majesty and beauty, and though it could never be venerated in the same way by the gentlemen around, yet the young, and pretty, and nicely dressed children whom he saw before him, would tell their children the results of this day's proceedings, and call the new House of God, their House—endered to them, by all their happiest and most sacred recollections.

His Lordship the Bishop then said:—