

From the time of the formation of the congregation in May, 1845, until the settlement of its first Pastor, the Rev. Donald Fraser, on the 8th day of August, 1851, a period of a little over six years, the pulpit was supplied by Ministers from Scotland, delegated by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church. The Rev. Donald Fraser, removed to Inverness, Scotland, in February, 1859, which caused a vacancy of the pulpit for about two years.

On the 30th day of January, 1861, the Rev. D. H. MacVicar was settled as Pastor, and ministered to the congregation until he commenced work as Professor in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, in September, 1868. Then after another vacancy of about twenty months, the Rev. R. F. Burns, D. D., of Chicago, was settled as pastor, on the 4th day of May, 1870, and continued as such until February, 1875, when he removed to Halifax, N.S.

Then occurred the long vacancy of the pulpit of nearly four years. The cause of the length of this vacancy, was chiefly that the majority of the congregation had come to be of the decided opinion, that longer continuance in the locality of Coté street was suicidal. Since the original formation of the congregation in 1845, the population of the City had increased three fold, and the character of the locality had entirely changed. The Protestant part of the population had mostly removed westwards to an inconvenient distance from the Church, and the remnant were gradually moving away in the same direction, and the consequent dropping off, of families and members, who were joining Churches much more convenient to their dwelling, made the absolute necessity of removing the Church building westwards, quite apparent.

In the month of November, 1875, a special meeting of the congregation was held in the Lecture Room of Coté Street Church, at which, after due consideration, a resolution was passed to move to a more suitable locality, and a Committee was appointed to select a site whereon to erect a new Church, and to procure subscriptions for the carrying out of this project. After considering several available sites, the one on which Crescent Street Church now stands was decided upon, and the subscriptions were so liberal, that notwithstanding an opposition to this movement that had sprung up, the site was purchased and plans were prepared, and the work of building commenced early in the fall of 1876, and before the winter had fairly set in, the foundation walls of the new building were finished. Work was then stopped for the winter and commenced again in the spring of 1877, as early as the weather permitted, and on the 5th day of May, 1877, the corner stone was laid with due ceremony, of what is now "Crescent Street Presbyterian Church."

Meantime the congregation was on the lookout to have a Pastor settled over them, and had sent a call to the Rev. Mr. Waterston, of Union Free Church, Glasgow, Scotland, who had been supplying the pulpit for about two months in the summer of 1876. This call in due course, came before the Presbytery of Glasgow, in the month of March, 1877, and was declined. The Rev. Mr. Waterston was aware that there still existed a possibility of a division of the congregation, a document having been drawn up, said to have been signed by about one-third of the members, objecting to the movement westwards and to the selling of the Church in Coté street, and besides this the new