

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

• AND MISSION NEWS •

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, JULY, 1895.

No. 109.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 109—SHANTY BAY, DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

THE thriving parish of Shanty Bay may be numbered among the oldest in the diocese, and is full of interest to many people.

About the year 1832 Col. O'Brien, father of the present Col. O'Brien, M.P., and also of the artist, Mr. Richard O'Brien, took up land on the shore of Kempenfeldt Bay, in the county of Simcoe, and at once set apart a site for a church, parsonage, and glebe.

A certain Mr. Walker collected money in England for the building of the church. While preparations were being made service was held in a very primitive building, which was afterwards turned into a stable. The Rev. Thomas Bartlett had charge of the parish at that time, which was about the year 1836. The building of the church went on by degrees. The walls were made of mud brick, commonly known as cob wall, a substance seldom used or even heard of now. When the walls and roof were finished it was opened for service by the Rev. J. Hallem, of Penetanguishene, in the year 1839, and dedicated to St. Thomas, but it was not till long after that the interior was finished. After Mr. Bartlett's departure it was some time before St. Thomas' Church had any clergyman of its own, and the clergymen of Orillia, Bond Head, and Penetanguishene kindly gave their services and administered the sacraments. In the year 1842 the

Rev. S. B. Ardagh, the second incumbent of Shanty Bay, and first rector of Barrie, with his family, arrived. His mission then included all of Oro, Medonte, Flos, Vespra, Barrie, Innisfil, Essa, Nottawasaga.

A Sunday school has always been held in connection with St. Thomas' Church, and there are people still living in the parish who learned in it the first rudiments of education. All those who were connected with the founda-

tion of the mission have long since passed away, and but few of those who formed the first congregation remain.

For many years Shanty Bay was worked in connection with Barrie, from which it is distant only a few miles. The Rev. S. B. Ardagh, rector of Barrie, ministered to its spiritual wants.

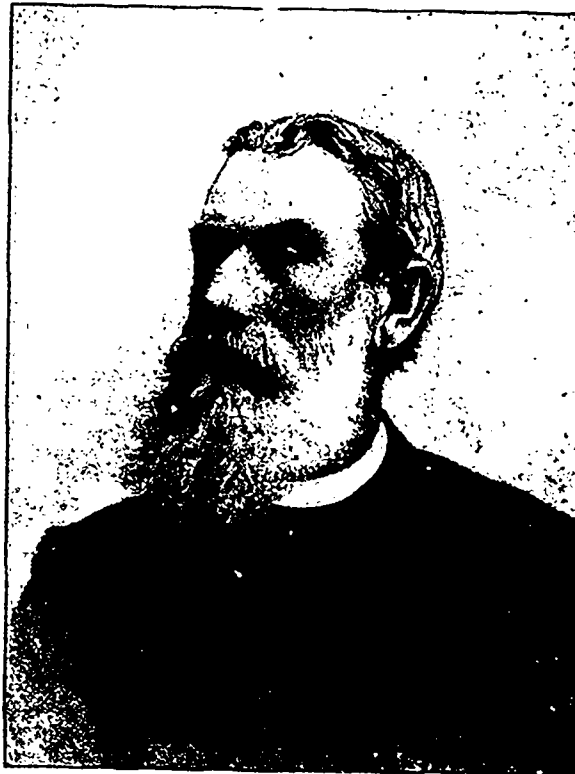
The endowment, which at one time amounted to £90 a year, was entirely lost in the failure of the Bank of Upper Canada, and the mission, since the death of Mr. Ardagh, when its connection with Barrie ceased, has been entirely dependent on the voluntary contributions of the people with some assistance from the Mission Board.

Since Mr. Ardagh's death Rev. J. Fletcher, Rev. C. E. Sills,

and Rev. J. White have been incumbents.

The communion cup belonging to the church is of solid silver, and bears the date 1802, the year it was won by the Rev. F. Sharpe at Cambridge University as an oratorical prize. It was afterwards presented to the church by his widow.

The interior of the church is very quaint and pretty. The chancel hangings are scarlet, worked with gold, and on the retable are brass



REV. J. E. COOPER,
Incumbent of Shanty Bay.