
A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH

and a Sabbath School commenced. There on October 24th, with an attendance of twenty-seven scholars and thirty-five other persons, Mr. David Fotheringham was appointed Superintendent, and the School was fully organized and soon grew in strength and in numbers. On Wednesday, October 27th, the mid-week meeting was inaugurated and for several months was conducted by Professors Gregg and MacLaren. The first regular Sabbath evening service was held on December 5th, 1886, in the house on Sussex Avenue and was conducted by Rev. Dr. MacLaren, who preached from the text, John xiv. 12.

The new cause grew to such dimensions that larger rooms proved necessary, and through the kindness of the authorities the Convocation Hall of Knox College became the meeting place for both Congregation and School. The movement for the erection of a church building was meanwhile being carried forward by the promoters of the enterprise—men and women—with great energy and success. A lot at the north-west corner of Bloor and Huron Streets had been purchased as the site of a church, and surely later events have abundantly justified the choice. This property was afterwards enlarged by the purchase of a lot immediately to the west. Contributions were sufficiently generous to warrant the immediate erection of a Sabbath School building, and on December 6th, 1886, the corner-stone was laid by W. Mortimer Clark, Esq. Various unforeseen difficulties delayed the completion of the building. Not until April 15th, 1888, was it possible to open the building for public worship; on that day appropriate services were conducted by Dr. Parsons and Dr. MacLaren. Of this earlier building Mr. G. E. Field was the architect, Mr. W. J. McMaster was Chairman of the Building Committee, and the student missionary in charge in those days was Mr.