



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HAMILTON, ONT.

in the new chamber, and all are much pleased with its sweet tone.

The church is now, if not the largest, one of the prettiest and most conveniently arranged churches of the diocese. But a word as to the Sunday School. This began first in Judge O'Reilly's study a few years before the Ascension was built. Soon, however, the number of Scholars increased, and it became necessary to look out a more commodious school room. The Judge's coach house was fitted up to accommodate the increasing numbers, and there for four years instruction was given in the first principles of our Church. When the Ascension was built the books were handed over to the rector with 120 on the roll. The first school house was a small rough cast building on the present site. This was only temporary and cheaply built, costing £50. Later on (1872) the first half of the present building was erected. Still the numbers of scholars increased, and it was found necessary to enlarge the building. This was done in Canon

(now Dean) Carmichael's time. The number of pupils now on the roll is 460 with an average attendance of 300. But we must not forget the Mission Hall.

In giving the history of this we must go back to the autumn of 1875, when the first Mother's meeting in this parish was held. A little company of nine gathered in the sitting room of the house of one of the members on Wellington street south, and met there every week during that winter. By the spring of 1876 the numbers were too many for the little room, so a cottage was taken on Maria street, and the partitions being removed it made a fair sized Mission room. The rector of the parish, the Rev. John Hebden, began at once in the new room a week day evening service, which is still continued. During Mr. Hebden's long time of delicate health the Bishop and clergy of the town and neighborhood were very kind in taking the services. A Bible class for men was begun about this time on Sunday afternoons, and in the year 1882 the Band of Hope was started during the rectorship of the Rev. James Carmichael. A Sewing School for girls was begun by the ladies of the parish in 1878, in accordance with a wish which had been expressed by Mr. Hebden the first time he was in the Mission room. This Sewing School has always been very popular amongst the children and is still held every Saturday afternoon. The room was soon found too small for the large numbers who attended the various meetings, and the present Mission room was built in 1882. It is a stone building on the corner of Wellington and Maria streets, capable of holding 150 people. Many who attend the meetings have expressed their affection for the bright, pleasant room where they feel so much at home. In 1882 the total number of Communion was 1,788, and in 1888, 2,508.

A WORD of advice to the Sunday school teacher. Make your class a missionary organization. Instill into the minds of the children the principle of aggressiveness. The first practical direction for the missionary instincts is to build up the Sunday schools, the child working among his fellow-children. Each class should be taught to enlarge itself. The next step is to interest the little ones in those things which directly concern children, as cots and wards for children in hospitals, in asylums for orphans and the like. Then in the schools in the foreign mission fields. Every Sunday school class should be taught to do some work for Christ. Nothing interests them so much, and education in this direction will result in untold benefits on the Church of the future.