

HISTORICAL NOTES. ●

ORGANIZATION.

Zion Congregational Church was organized on the 23rd of November, 1834, and consisted of seventeen members, nearly all having previously been connected with the Congregational denomination in England. At the close of December the membership was twenty-six.

PASTORS.

The present is the fifth pastoral settlement; and the office has been successively filled as follows:—namely: By the Rev. Wm. Merrefield, who came from Brampton, in Cumberland, England, under whom the church was organized; and who resigned on September 19th, 1836, and died in England, January 23rd, 1837. The Rev. John Roaf, of Wolverhampton, England, was the next pastor; he accepted the charge on March 29th, 1838, which he sustained for more than seventeen years. He resigned, June 25th, 1855, and died in Toronto, September 2nd, 1862. Mr. Roaf was succeeded on the 29th May, 1856, by the Rev. Thomas Scales Ellerby, formerly, pastor of the British and American Congregational Church at St Petersburg, Russia; who closed his pastorate of about ten years, on March 28th, 1866, and is now rector of the Episcopal church at Sarnia, Ont. On the 30th of May, 1866, the Rev. John G. Manly, of Dublin, Ireland, assumed the office which he filled for about four years and a half; resigning December 1st, 1870, and was succeeded on the first of June, 1871, by the Rev. Samuel N. Jackson, M. D., of Montreal, the present pastor.

DEACONS.

The deacons' office, from the formation of the church to the present time, has been filled by thirty-two officers; fourteen of whom are deceased; four sustain the same office in a sister church, and eight still retain their official relationship. The first deacons were Robert Wightman, Robert Rowell, and James Wickson, elected February the 12th, 1835.

CHURCH EDIFICES.

The first public services of the church were held November 23rd, 1834, in the Masonic Hall, then on Colborne Street. In July, 1837, the church removed to a vacant Methodist church on George Street. In this place they continued to meet for religious purposes until January, 1840, when they removed to their new church on the corner of Adelaide and Bay Street, which edifice was destroyed by fire on the 26th February, 1855. For over a year and a half the Sunday services were held in St Lawrence Hall, the use of which was granted by the City Council. On the 26th September, 1856, the present church building, occupying the site of that destroyed by fire, was opened for public worship.