

The Church Record.

Vol. II.

NOVEMBER, 1898.

No. 10.

NOTICE. THE CHURCH RECORD has missed a month. The reasons are not far to seek. H. Morey & Co.'s printing plant all perished in the fire, and the Editor was disposed to wait until new plant was obtained and the Printing Office in running order again: and the second reason lay in the Editor being under the weather and disinclined to the necessary exertion and work which the editing of the magazine entails.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

Holy Trinity.

THE one absorbing topic of conversation in our city, during the past days since Sept. 10th., has been the fire that swept out of existence the greater portion of our business portion of the city and also many of the residences that adorned it.

The descriptions given of the catastrophe in the secular press have been thoroughly digested, we doubt not, by countless numbers of readers, and we do not desire to seek to picture the scene, wrought by the fire, in more glaring and vivid colours than has already been done. So we will content ourselves with dealing with that which most immediately concerns us, as church people, viz., the loss we have sustained in the destruction of our Church and Parish Room. When the fire first started, at about 11:30, the thought that it was going to work such devastation could

scarcely have entered the minds of anyone; but it was not long before it became apparent that the fire had gained so far the upper hand, through the inefficiency of the water supply, that, before it could be checked, the loss would be one far exceeding anything that the Royal City had ever been subjected to before. It was not very long, after some of the stately buildings that adorned Columbia Street had taken fire, that it was realized that our Cathedral was in danger and the Rector at once went to the Church and opened the doors, so that if occasion required, some of the valuables contained in the building might be rescued and he also packed up the church chest ready for removal, with all such articles and documents as he knew were of priceless value, and which could not be replaced. And indeed he was none too soon in taking this step, for at every moment the fire got closer to the building and all hopes of its escape were abandoned.

The universality of the fire prevented our people from rescuing anything in the church, as they were all, more or less, engaged in looking after their own goods, and had it not been for the timely aid, willingly rendered by Mr. Stubbs and the Rev. Field Yolland, the few things that were saved would have been lost, for, when the goods that were rescued had been taken to Dr. Walker's stable, it became questionable whether that would long prove a sanctuary, and so they were removed to the