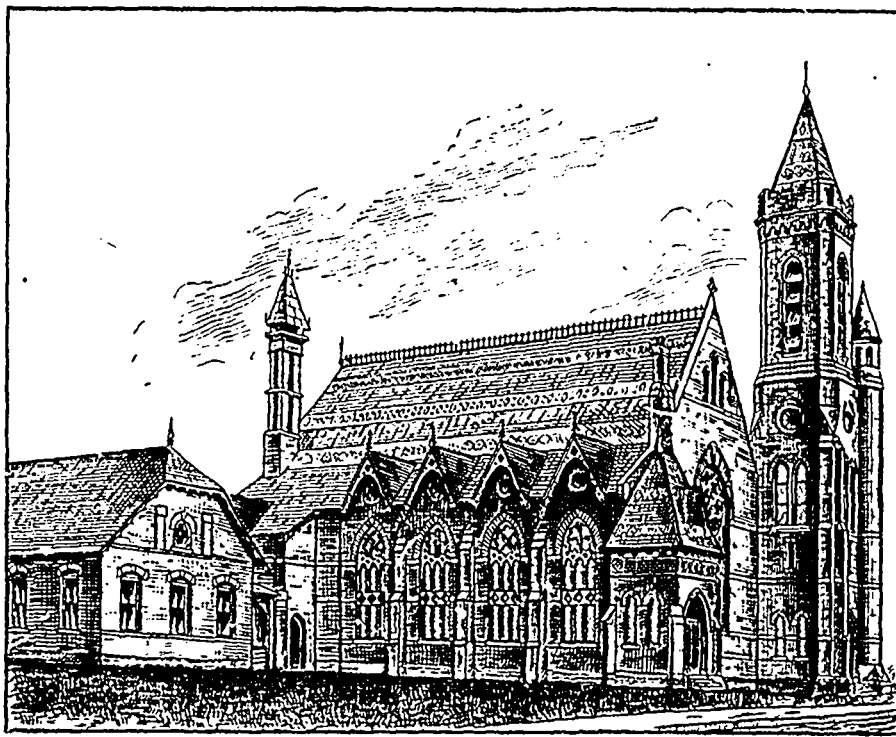




ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODSTOCK, DIOCESE OF HURON.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 42—ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODSTOCK,
DIOCESE OF HURON.

WOODSTOCK, situated in the beautiful county of Oxford, is one of the most prosperous towns in Ontario. It is the county town, and also has a large number of factories. It is still growing, as is shown by the fact that last year about \$300,000 was spent in building. Among the large buildings of the town, none attracts the eye of the visitor more readily than the magnificent structure of St. Paul's Church. It is built of red brick. Inside, instead of the regular deep chancel, it has a large apse, which gives the building a rather unique appearance for an Anglican Church. All the woodwork of the chancel is of red oak. The choir and clergy stalls are of carved oak. The organ, which is one of the finest in Western Ontario, is made by Warren. Mr. Lloyd, of Detroit, is the architect. The building was completed in 1879. Up to this time the congregation had worshipped in the old church, which was built in 1834. The Rev. Wm. Bettridge, B.D., was appointed the first Rector of Woodstock in 1834. He had formerly been in the army, and was town major in Brussels on the night preceding the battle of Waterloo. He was a brilliant scholar, an eloquent preacher, and a

courtly gentleman. Admiral Drew procured money from Admiral Vansittart and others in England to build a church. He built on some property of his own at what is now the east end of the town. To provide for the increased numbers, transcripts were subsequently built, also a rectory and school house. Dr. Bettridge also got grants of land for the church, and these form the present endowment of the Rectory. The church's work increasing, and Dr. Bettridge's health not being good, he was assisted by a curate. Among those who have labored in the parish may be named the Rev. Joseph C. Gibson, Rev. Abraham Hutchinson, Rev. Albert Whitmarsh, Rev. Charles Bancroft, Rev. Isaac Barr, who is now Rector of St. Paul's Church, East Saginaw; Rev. William Craig, B.D., now Rector of Clinton, and Rev. W. B. Evans. As Dr. Bettridge became more feeble, he withdrew from active parish work, though still holding his position as Rector. Then the Rev. Arthur Sweatman, M.A., Archdeacon of Brant, was appointed Rector in Charge in 1876. The town had grown west, leaving the church at the extreme east. After much discussion it was decided to build a large central church and close the old one, the result being the beautiful church shown in our cut. As the church was nearing completion the Ven. Archdeacon Sweatman, who had taken such a keen interest in the building of the church, was elected Bishop of Toronto. In April, 1879, the Rev. James J. Hill, M. A., was appointed his successor as Rector in Charge; he had only been a few months in this position when the Rector, Dr. Bettridge, died. Mr. Hill was inducted to the Rectory in Nov., 1879. The new church was now finished and was opened on the 14th of January, 1880, the Right Rev. Arthur Sweatman, Bishop of Toronto, returning to his old parish to preach the first sermon in the building which owed so much to him,