

some very respectable Church edifices, among which may be mentioned the St. Paul Street Methodist, the Roman Catholic, St. George's (Episcopalian), Knox (Presbyterian), American Presbyterian, Queen St. Baptist, with several smaller ones, branches from these denominations, which are located in the outlying portions of the Town, and serve to add materially to the religious accommodation and meet the requirements of the people. The School System is one of the Institutions of which St. Catharines may well feel proud. Its Public Schools are well conducted and the buildings provided by the liberality of the people are ample, and not only so, but in their style are elegant and substantial. The Central School occupies one of the finest sites within the Corporation and raises its chaste and ornamental head above every other. In connection with this are several other buildings of a substantial and convenient construction giving accommodation ample to meet all the requirements of the rising generation. The High School also occupies an almost equally elegant site, and is a commodious and good building, and gives a good idea of the progress of higher education in the evidently complex or patchwork character of its construction. The Roman Catholic Convent as an educational structure is, perhaps, the largest in the town, and is a very fine building, erected within the past year. All these taken together afford ample facilities and show that St. Catharines in the march of intellect is in the foreground.

There are also some very fine Hotels in St. Catharines, among which may be mentioned the "Stephenson House," the "Spring Bank," the Welland House," the "Murray House," the "Cairns House" and many others of smaller dimensions, but for public accommodation. Among its charitable institutions, the first in character as "the first in fame" is the "GRANT-HAM and MARINE HOSPITAL." This institution owes its being to Dr. Theophilus Mack, in whose mind first originated the idea of establishing an asylum for those who, subject to the vicissitudes and accidents of canal transit, might be left friendless and homeless. In its first existence it may be truly said to be "a day of small beginnings," but now it stands forth as one of the noblest charities and the best administered of which the Province can boast. Although not local in its object, it is local in its origin, and therefore belongs to St. Catharines. It is the best monument that can be reared to the generous philanthropy of Dr. Mack, aided as it was by the liberality of Capt. James Norris, the present M.P. for the County of Lincoln; nursed and cherished by the charitable impulses of St. Catharines, it now is spoken of as one of the most useful and, it is to be hoped, permanent of the institutions of the country. The Town Hall, as it is called, is a cut stone structure and, taken with its adjuncts of Court House, Public Offices, etc., is rather a creditable building. The "Town Hall" (proper) is however the best apartment in the structure, and the Court House, Public Offices, and other appendages of the building, will no doubt soon be improving. The Market grounds surround the building, and on market days are crowded to excess. It is in contemplation to provide larger accommodation for the greatly increasing requirements of the Public Market. The County Gaol is situated at the east end of the Town and is a very imposing building, erected on the most improved principles of government science; as is also the County Registry Office, located near the Town Hall. The Firemen's Hall is another of the public buildings. It is situated on St. Paul street, and contains all the appliances which St. Catharines affords for the protection of property from fire; these consist of two Steam Fire Engines, Hose, Hooks and Ladders &c., but the PEOPLE have voted for a system of Water Works, and there is a prospect that the cry of the people will ere long meet with a response.

It would scarcely be just to close this hasty sketch of St. Catharines, without paying some tribute to the memory of one to whom it is indebted more than any other for even its existence. He has passed away but is still remembered. We mean the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt. To him and to his indomitable perseverance the country owes the Welland Canal. He cannot be spoken of as an individual. He was the author of the Welland Canal and consequently of St. Catharines.

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