

# Bloor Street Presbyterian Church

## ITS EARLY HISTORY

THE story of Bloor Street Church may well be told if for no other reason than to incite the children to imitate the faith and courage and devotion of their fathers and mothers who founded it. Some of them "rest from their labors and their works do follow them"; others are with us still, rendering what service strength and opportunity permit.

On the evening of January 23rd, 1886, eight men met at 84 St. George Street, the home of Mr. Thomas McCracken, to talk over the feasibility of establishing a Presbyterian centre in what was then the north-western district of the City. Besides Mr. McCracken, there were present Professor MacLaren, Professor Gregg, and Messrs. John Scott, W. J. McMaster, S. Crane, George Smith and R. J. Hunter. Individuals had already privately suggested the commencing of Sabbath School work in the district, but this gathering may be looked upon as the first definite step towards the initiating of the work, which in our day has grown to such dimensions. The population in the neighborhood was increasing and, in view of the estate since known as "the Annex" being broken up into building lots, likely to increase much more; it was decided, therefore, to make application to the Presbytery of Toronto to sanction the commencement of a Sabbath School and Sabbath evening services in the neighborhood of St. George and Huron Streets. After some delay the Presbytery, on April 9th, 1886, sanctioned the former, and on May 20th authorized that Sabbath evening services should be commenced in December of the same year.

No. 11—now No. 39—on Sussex Avenue was rented