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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 48—THE TRIVITT MEMORIAL CHURCH,
EXETER, ONTARIO.

By THE EDITOR.

INSTANCES of churches built in Canada by individuals, at their own cost, and endowed by them are very few. We cannot recall one in the past. Possibly we may be wrong. If so we shall be glad to be set right and to give due acknowledgment of the correction through the columns of this magazine. We have had instances, melancholy instances, of churchmen, clerical and lay, who have amassed fortunes and left them behind, in many cases to people who were well enough off as it was, without leaving a memorial in any way worthy of their wealth to assist the Church either in strengthening her position or in extending her usefulness; but not many instances, we are sorry to say, of absolute munificence have come down to us through the history of our Canadian Church. It is to be hoped that already there is for us a dawn of better things.

A man who shows gratitude to Almighty God for the abundant means placed at his disposal, by using a portion of those means to erect at his own cost a handsome church, fully equipped for divine worship, supplying it with a School House, Rectory and an endowment, so as to perpetuate its good work among the people within sound of its bells, is one who deserves honor at the hands of his fellow churchmen and some of that gentle praise which, as a rule, is pleasant to all well-doers.

Such a man,—he will pardon us for saying it,—is Thomas Trivitt, Esq., of the village of Exeter, in the Diocese of Huron. Exeter is a quiet village situated about thirty miles from London in a fine agricultural country. It has a population of about two thousand and will no doubt, ere long, be incorporated as a town, though at present it seems quite satisfied to be designated a village. As one approaches it from the railroad he notices a large Church, English like in its appearance, the church being the central object of the place, and

all other buildings clustering round it. He asks in true Canadian style, "What church is that?" and is told "The English Church." Accustomed, unhappily, to see in most villages and small towns the prominent ecclesiastical edifice either a Presbyterian or a Methodist, or a Baptist "church," he is somewhat gratified at so goodly a sight. And he soon learns the secret of it, for as he visits the church, he sees two beautiful tablets of polished brass, set in dark oak frames, bearing inscriptions in red and blue letters of old English style, adorning the north and south walls res-



THOMAS TRIVITT, ESQ., OF EXETER, DIOCESE OF HURON.

pectively. The inscription on the tablet of the north wall runs thus:—

"This church, dedicated to the glory of God, was erected by Thomas and Elizabeth Trivitt as a grateful memorial of the many divine favors conferred upon them, and is donated upon these express conditions: That an anniversary service shall be held herein every year on the first Sunday in the month of September, and that all the sittings herein shall be and remain free for ever."