

land, nestling as it does amongst trees and with a well kept garden. The heavy stained and varnished roof of the interior contrasts beautifully with the delicate pearl grey tinted walls. The greatest taste has been displayed in the choice of the curtains, carpets, cushions, etc., the colors of which blend so as to produce a most harmonious effect of crimson, black and gold, a great contrast truly to the building in which the first service was held.

On the western coast of Africa there are over one hundred congregations. In Sierra Leone fifty thousand civilized Africans worship the God of our fathers. Two thousand miles of sea-coast have been wrested from the slave trade, and the church and the school substituted for the slave pen.

In Formosa the first baptism took place in 1865. Now the Canadian and English Presbyterians have 8,000 converts.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 31—ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, CHARLOTTE-TOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

DIFFICULT as it may be to give a succinct account of the origin of many of our Canadian parishes, it is not with many of them on account of their antiquity. There are but few, for example, that are in a position to speak of their parochial events of the last century, simply because, long after the present century opened, their parishes were still in a state of primeval grandeur, inhabited only by wild animals of the forest, or the aborigines of the country. It is not so, however, with the parish of Charlottetown. It, at least, can speak definitely of events concerning itself which transpired during the latter part of the last century.

Obscure and unreliable as are the stories told of the earliest work of the Church in this Province, the parish of Charlotte, now known as St. Paul's, Charlottetown, could have celebrated its centenary several years ago. The writer has duly authenticated books of the registration of baptisms, marriages and burials. all the way back to 1777, when occurred the first entry by the Rev. Theophilus Des Brisay. But before that time the Minutes of the Town Council record the payment of moneys to the Rev. John Eagleson, for the performance of Divine service. Mr. Eagleson, former a Presbyterian minister, was ordained by the Bishop of London in 1769, and stationed at Fort Cumberland. At the request of churchmen in the island, he visited it under the direction of the Government, and the Corresponding Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In 1778 the garrison of Fort Cumberland was besieged by an American revolutionary force, and Mr. Eagleson was taken prisoner, and carried off to New England, where he endured six months imprisonment, at the expiration of which he effected his escape, and returned to his Mission.

In 1774 his late Majesty George III. appointed

the Rev. Theophilus Des Brisay rector of the parish of Charlotte, in the room of John Caulfield, Clerk, but he does not appear to have entered upon his work until 1777. How long Mr. Caulfield remained (if he ever even visited the parish) we cannot say. Between therefore the casual visits of the Rev. John Eagleson, and the commencement of the work of the Rev. T. Des Brisay, the history of the parish is shrouded in oblivion. Whether John Caulfield was rector, or like Eagleson, travelling missionary merely, cannot now be determined. The history of the parish therefore, as a parish, may be said to have commenced with the appointment of Mr. Des Brisay. Of this gentleman, who was a son of Col. Thomas Des Brisay, the Lieut.-Governor of the Colony in 1779, there are several of the lineal descendants now living in Charlottetown, some of whom are regular and faithful members of St. Paul's.

The first church of which there is any record, was built in about the year 1800, near the spot where now stands the market hall. In the year 1828 that site being wanted for public purposes, a large, central and finely situated piece of land was selected, and granted to the Church of England by the Crown, for the purpose of erecting a church upon it. A frame was soon raised, but destroyed by a fearful gale of wind, which did much other damage. It was not until 1835 that a second effort was made, and this time a large church which is now being used by the parish, was successfully completed, and opened and consecrated in 1836 by John Ingles, Bishop of Nova Scotia, with impressive ceremonies. This church has been since enlarged twice, to accommodate the increasing population of the city. The most recent enlargement was the extension of the east end by the addition of a brick chancel in 1873, at a cost of over \$5,000. The old structure is now much weatherworn and somewhat decrepid. The spire, the second one since 1835, has recently been condemned, and will soon have to be taken down.

A strong movement is now on foot to build an entirely new structure, more in keeping with the requirements of the day. The position of the new church will probably be slightly changed so as to give the group of buildings and the beautiful grounds in which they stand a more pleasing and picturesque appearance.

In the year 1843 a wooden building was erected on the south-east corner of the lot, for the purposes of a daily infant school. Subsequently, when the present excellent public school regulations came into force, this was no longer needed for its original purposes, and was therefore and has been ever since devoted entirely to Sunday School objects. Three times it has been enlarged. In one part resides the sexton and his family, and there are, besides the ordinary lecture room, two class rooms, an excellent library room, and a large, comfortable room for the use of the rector.

During the year, the congregation has built a rectory, of ample dimensions, upon the church lot