

## HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

Thus the time was opportune for the presentation by the inhabitants of Chippawa of their petition for aid in erecting a Church. The Report for 1822 records that a grant was made to them to the amount of 100 pounds, the same sum being voted also to Queen's Town and Ancaster respectively. Of Chippawa it was said "The principal inhabitants are Presbyterians, yet they have subscribed to the Church. It was at first objected to its being exclusively Episcopalian; but they are now reconciled to it."

"It is to be regretted," says Stewart in the Report for 1823, "that in most parts of the country the members of the Church are few in comparison with the dissenters. At the same time, this consideration must not operate as a check to our exertions, but as an excitement to us in the work of instruction and edification, afforded by us according to the best rule and principles of faith and practice. Relaxation in our endeavours would only increase the existing evil and difficulties."

The Report for 1826 chronicles the fact that Mr. Leeming of Chippawa and the Revd. A. N. Bethune (from 1867-1879 Bishop of Toronto,) of Grimsby, officiate once in every month at St. Catharines. "A good congregation assembles, and there is a prospect of the population rapidly increasing, as the formation of the canal which is to connect Lake Erie and Lake Ontario at that place is now in progress."

The congregation at Chippawa was stated in the Report for 1829 seldom to exceed 80, it and the population not having varied much since 1820. The greatest number of communicants at any one time is said to be 21.

In that same year Mr. Leeming was taking service also at Fort Erie. Further it is noted that the Church and the burial ground at Chippawa village had been consecrated, which proves that they then had no debt standing against them.

The consecrator was, of course, the Hon. and Right Revd. Charles James Stewart, who had in 1826 attained to the dignity of second Bishop of Quebec. He was a guest of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, General Sir Peregrine Maitland, who had his country-seat in the neighborhood of Stamford. There he awaited the Bishop of Nova Scotia and the Bishop of New York, who were visiting the Falls on the 26th and 27th of August, 1828. He filled in the time of waiting by preaching at Chippawa, Stamford and Queenston.

Other Churches consecrated in the same year were the one at Stamford, the second St. James' at York, and the second St. George's at Kingston.

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