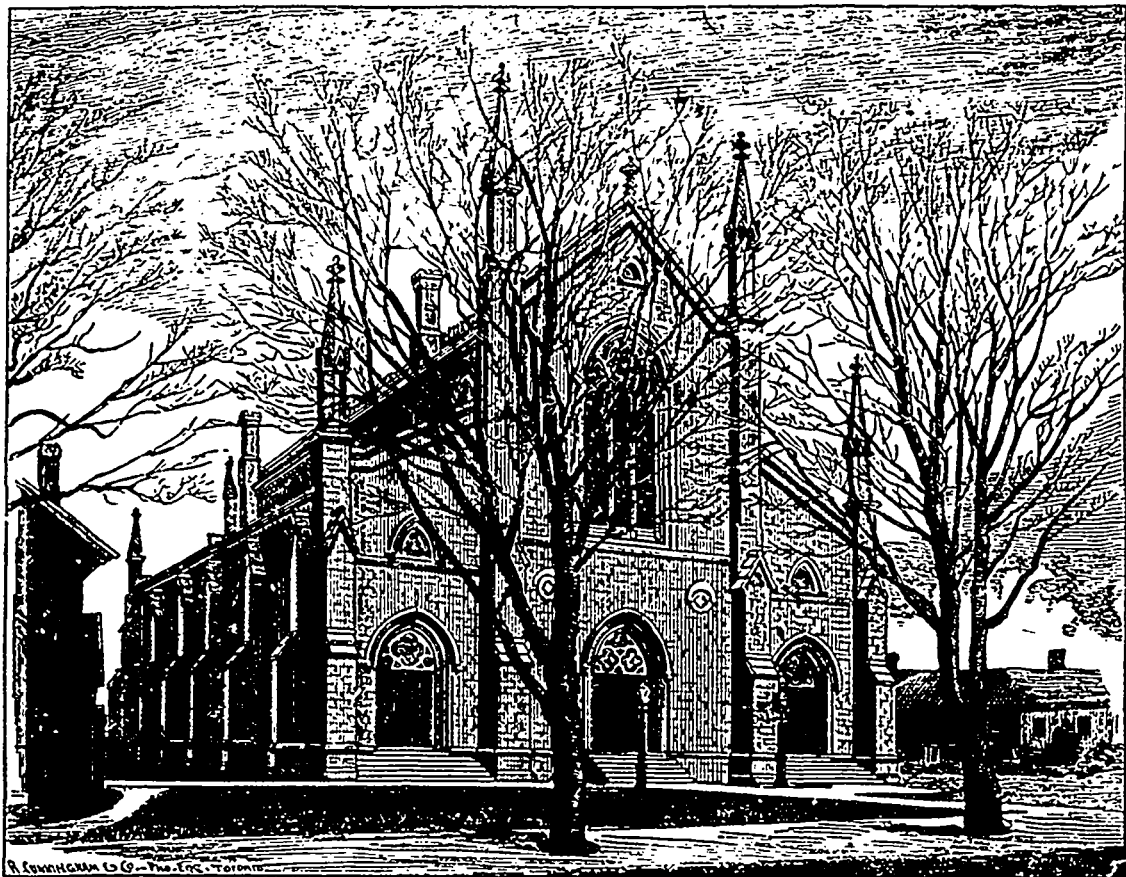




CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON.

the universal exertions of the building committee and the generous gifts presented to the cathedral by kind Christian friends, among them a widow lady who gave an early stimulus to the work by a donation of \$1,000, and "that venerable member of the congregation, the late John Winer, his unwavering friend from first to last of his lifelong ministry, for the costly gasaliers," he concluded his remarks with the following words: "Forty-one years within a few days, I commenced my ministry in Hamilton, in weakness, in fear and in much trembling, our temporary place of worship the old jail and court house, my first congregation about 30 souls. From that humble beginning sprang the mother church, which by God's blessing has produced a numerous and healthy progeny, numbering among her daughters, first the Church of the Ascension, then St. Thomas', afterwards St. John's Chapel, now the Church of All Saints'. Truly may the preacher say with grateful Jacob, who went out singly and alone from his father's house, and after many years of absence returned with numerous children, flocks and herds, — 'With my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I am become two (several) bands.'"

It was remarked, that singularly enough, as the de-

struction of the old building was inaugurated with torrents of rain, the opening ceremony of the new church was hailed with the brightest of sunshine.

A brief enumeration of statistics may not be without interest. During the Dean's incumbency there were solemnized about 1,250 marriages, 5,186 baptisms, 3,000 burials and 1,000 young persons were confirmed. His ministry has been exercised in times of varied public calamity, viz., two visitations of Asiatic cholera, one of ship fever among the emigrants, one of rebellion and one of foreign invasion. Out of the seventy-five heads of families who were enrolled as members of the church at the organization of the parish in 1835, only two remain in this year of 1887. And out of the first list of communicants who were enrolled in 1836, five only at present are to be found.

In taking down the spire of the old church an interesting relic was found—a copy of the "Hamilton Journal," dated 8th Feb., 1839, the spire not having been completed till that date.

In December, 1879, the Rev. Dr. Geddes, then Dean of Niagara (having fulfilled forty-five years of ministry) retired from the active duties of Rector and the Rev. Dr. Mockridge was appointed Rector in Charge.