

which is wholly wanting in its commercial rival by the sea, Halifax, whose buildings are nearly all of wood begrimed with ages of smoke from the soft coal which is almost universally used there. At the head of one of these hilly streets, in a prominent position, so that it can be seen from many points throughout the city stands the grey form of St. John's Church, one of those old-fashioned buildings which are gradually being replaced by structures of more graceful and ornate form. But St. John's Church is looked upon as one of the old landmarks of the city and would no doubt be missed by many, however grand might be the edifice which at any time should replace it. It was built in the year 1824, and was opened for divine service on the 11th of September, 1825. At that time the Rector of the parish was the Rev Robert Willis. In the year of the opening of the church the Rev. John Inglis, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax, was appointed Bishop of Nova Scotia, and the Rectory of St. Paul's was offered to Dr. Willis and accepted by him, much against the will of the St. Paul's congregation, who had set their hearts upon a local clergyman whom they much admired. Dr. Willis, however, accepted the position and faced a long struggle with a people ill-disposed to welcome him. New Brunswick at that time, it may be said, formed part of the Diocese of Nova Scotia. On the retirement of Dr. Willis the Rev. Benjamin G. Gray, of St. George's Church, Halifax, was appointed Rector of St. John, and had for his assistant his son, the Rev. J. W. D. Gray, who succeeded to the Rectory on the retirement of his father in the year 1840. In December, 1852, the parish of St. Mark was formed from that of St. John, and the Rev. George Mortimer Armstrong, M.A., appointed Rector. St. John's Church was subsequently made the parish church of St. Mark's parish, of which the following gentlemen were elected on the 2nd of May, 1853, the first church wardens and vestrymen:—Churchwardens, L. H. DeVeber, Charles Ward. Vestrymen, W. F. Smith, Thomas M. Smith, W. J. Lawrence, T. W. Daniel, W. H. Adams, S. L. Ingrin, W. D. W. Hubbard, John McArdy, J. R. Ruel, Robt. Armstrong, W. L. Avery. Of these the surviving members are: J. W. Lawrence, T. W. Daniel, J. R. Ruel, and W. D. W. Hubbard. The Sunday School building was erected in 1854, under great difficulty, owing to the terrible visitation by cholera that year. The present Rector is Rev. John de Soyres, M. A.

St. John's Church, St. John, is intimately connected with the Rev. G. M. Armstrong, who but recently departed this life, and an obituary notice of whom has already appeared in the columns of this magazine. To this church Mr. Armstrong always pointed with pride and was wont to say "If my friends want any memorial of me, they will have it in my church." And such, indeed, is the case. During his long rectory, extending from 1851 to October, 1889—38 years, his life was one of such continued devotion to his Master's cause as to win for him the love and esteem of all who knew him.

Our Indian Department.

Edited by Rev. W. A. Burman, B.D., Principal of the Rupert's Land Indian Industrial School, St. Paul's, Manitoba. Missionaries having items of interest regarding the Indian will kindly forward them to Mr. Burman.



ATHABASCA.

The following extracts are from an interesting letter from the Rev. G. Holmes, Lesser Slave Lake, C.M.S. Mission, Athabasca, printed in *Missionary Leaves*:

ATHABASCA, September, 1889.

I think I told you in my last that we purposed building our church this summer, so you will understand this long interval of silence, especially when I mention that besides attending to my pastoral and domestic duties, I have been compelled, owing to the scarcity of men, to do a good share of the building. We are, just now, putting on the roof of the church, but will not be able to finish it this fall, as I first intended. Its dimensions are thirty feet by twenty-four, inside, exclusive of chancel, which is thirteen feet square; from the floor to the top of the roof is twenty-two feet. It is what they call here a "post and frame" building—that is, four stout posts on each side, with lower and upper frames. The spaces between the posts are filled in with logs squared on two sides. There are six windows in the body of the church and two in the chancel. We shall have all the furniture to make ourselves. The only piece of work that I fear will overtax our artistical skill is the construction of a pulpit. I presume it will not be lacking in originality.

Mr. Robinson will be leaving for White Fish Lake in a few weeks, where he goes to spend the winter. I shall give him a share of the clothing, which he will distribute to the most needy, and any who can, will, in return, supply him with fire-