

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

• • AND MISSION NEWS • •

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1895.

No. 110.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 110.—TRINITY CHURCH, ST. THOMAS.

THE city of St. Thomas is situated about two thirds of the way between London, the see city of the diocese of Huron, and Port Stanley, on Lake Erie. It is the county town of the county of Elgin. For a long time it was but a small town, but about twenty years or so ago it took a sudden change for the better and increased in population to a sufficient extent to allow of its being called a city—the great point or ambition for all towns in Canada and the United States.

The first Church of England missionary who visited St. Thomas was the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart, who, from 1820 to 1822, officiated in Port Talbot, Dunwich, St. Thomas, London, Bayham, etc. Rev. Alexander Mackintosh was appointed first incumbent of St. Thomas in 1824. In the same year a wooden church was built and very appropriately dedicated to St. Thomas. The Holy Communion was administered in this church for the first time by the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart, assisted by Rev. A. Mackintosh, on Sunday, June 19th, 1825. At that time Upper Canada, or Ontario, as it is now called, was to a great extent a wilderness, and many places that are now cities and towns were then only small villages or heads of "settlements." The incumbent of St. Thomas was really a missionary with a large tract of country, extending from London to Port Burwell, under his charge.

The St. Thomas *Journal* of November, 1887, states that the first confirmation held in this church was on August 23rd, 1827. If so, it must have been conducted by the Hon. and Rt. Rev. Dr. Stewart, who between his first administration of the Holy Communion in it and this service had been chosen and consecrated Bishop of Quebec—a diocese which then embraced the whole of Canada except the maritime provinces. Consecrated bishop in

1826, he seems to have lost no time in visiting the old, remote places where he had officiated as a travelling missionary, and the people of St. Thomas' Church, St. Thomas, we may well imagine, were glad to welcome their zealous missionary as their bishop.

Mr. Mackintosh was succeeded in 1829 by Rev. Edward Jukes Boswell, who officiated until December of that year. In December, 1829, Rev. Mark Burnham, B.A., was appointed rector. He was a son of Hon. Zaccheus Burnham, of Cobourg, Ont., was a graduate of Oxford, and was ordained deacon immediately before being appointed rector. He was a man of blameless life, and deservedly beloved. He was rector of the

church for over twenty-three years. Miss Burnham, sister of Rev. Mark Burnham, became the wife of the late E. Ermatinger—a name well-known in St. Thomas and in the diocese of Huron generally.

During Mr. Burnham's incumbency the church was enlarged by the addition of transepts. On his removal to Peterborough in 1852, the Rev. St. George Caulfield was appointed. Dr. Caulfield was an Irish clergyman, born in Kilkenny, educated at Trinity College, Dublin



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