



ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, ST. CATHARINES.

scriptural language of our liturgy, and worship in spirit and in truth in accordance with the principles of the glorious Reformation and the tenets sanctified by the martyrdom of our bishops." The corner-stone was then placed in position, with the impressive and appropriate ceremonies of the Masonic fraternity by the Most Worthy Grand Master, J. K. Kerr, Esq. After the opening of the new church, Rev. Wm. Brookman assumed the incumbency, which he continued to fill to the universal satisfaction of his parishioners until succeeded by the Rev. Oliver J. Booth, who was rector until 1886, when he left St. Catharines to become Rector of the Church of the Ascension in Buffalo. Mr. Booth was succeeded by the Rev. W. J. Armitage, the present Rector. In the last few years the mortgage debt of the Church has been reduced by the payment of \$2,000, and the floating debt by the same amount. The sum of \$2,000 has been raised the present summer for structural alterations and color decoration. This work is under the direction of Frank Darling, Esq.,

the well-known architect, and promises to be very pleasing and effective. The Sunday Schools of the parish are in a high state of efficiency, and within a short period have increased their membership fourfold.

There is a flourishing Band of Hope with 240 members on the roll. The Ladies' Aid, Willing Workers, District Visitors, and other kindred societies have done a most useful work in the parish. Mr. Armitage, in company with the Rev. Principal Miller, B. A., raised stock to the amount of nearly \$50,000 for the purpose of establishing Bishop Ridley College—the new Church School for Boys—in St. Catharines.

St. Thomas' Church proper is a handsome building of the Romanesque style of architecture, erected in the form of a Greek cross, and presenting a strikingly picturesque and imposing appearance. The material used in its construction is Queenston stone, with freestone facings. A massive Norman tower forms the southeast corner of the edifice, while a round tower of somewhat minor size occupies the opposite corner. The chancel contains ample room for the choir and the organ, which is pronounced the finest toned instrument in the Niagara district. The woodwork throughout is very massive and handsome. The font, which is of cut stone, was forwarded to the church by the late Mr. William Hare, while the lectern and organ used in the Sunday School are the

gifts of the late Dr. Mack. The Sunday School room occupies the entire basement of the church, and is a model of cleanliness and neatness. It is reached by either of two main entrance doors on the south side and contains three large class rooms, a well-arranged library and several small rooms, which in the event of socials, etc., are utilized as kitchens and china storerooms. The rich and elegant communion service used in Christ Church is the gift of the late Mr. D. C. Haynes, while St. Thomas' Church has been the recipient of an equally beautiful service at the hands of the late Col. Powell.

The Church property in the parish is valued at \$36,000.

THOUGH faith in the old religions is certainly declining in Japan, yet there are still over 250,000 Buddhist priests in the empire,—over eight times as many priests as Christians—and the old superstitions have yet a very strong hold upon the masses.