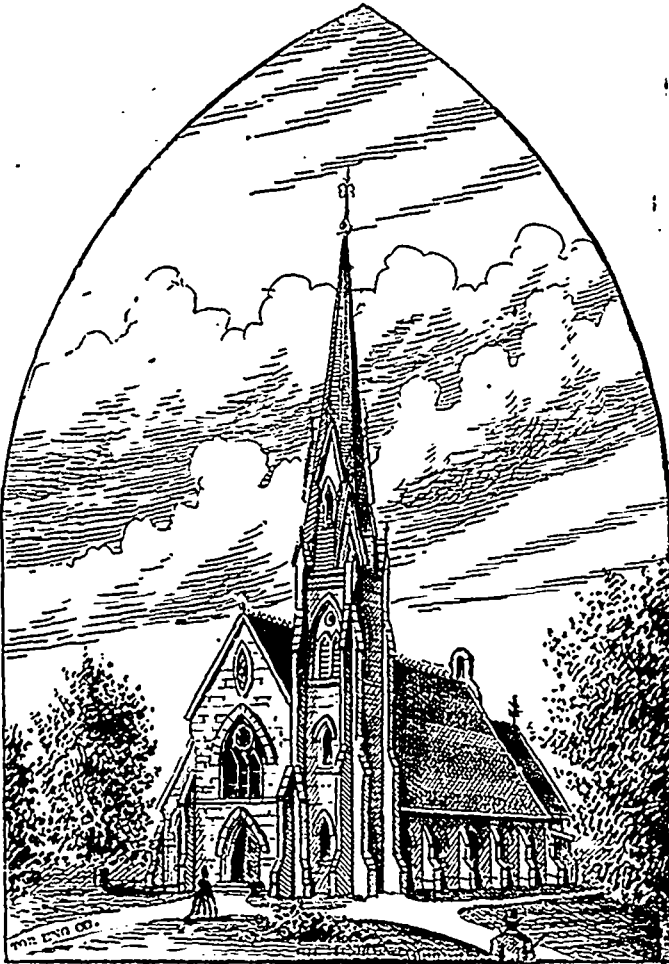




ST. JAMES' CHURCH, STRATFORD, DIOCESE OF HURON.

increasing body of educated Hindus is seen renouncing idolatry. Some of her best sons are in the Christian ministry. Many a Christian community is flourishing in India. These are oases in the desert—paradises half of whose charm is derived from the vast ring of barrenness, in which like gems they are set. But may we not believe that the time will come when all the wilderness shall blossom as the rose? Remember in hopeful intercession that work which your Lord has given His Church to do for Him, and the accomplishment of which He awaits in glory.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 32—ST. JAMES' CHURCH, STRATFORD,
DIOCESE OF HURON.

S ONE travels swiftly through the county of Perth and its immediate neighborhood, comfortably seated in a railway passenger car and looking out upon fine farms, spacious country residences and thriving villages, it is difficult to imagine that fifty years ago

it was all a dense forest, marked only here and there with the home of a settler. Yet such was the case. The development first began when the Canada Company selected a site for their headquarters, when undertaking the settling of the Huron territory. The site they selected was the place where the city of Stratford now stands and was known as a sort of "half-way house" for travellers making their way to the south and west. For a time the Canada Company's offices were the only houses in the village of Stratford. To this village in 1831 came William Sargent, a man of means who erected a frame building which, for many years, was used as an hotel known as the Shakespeare House. Then a saw mill was erected by the Canada Company which subsequently led to the establishment of a grist mill the first factor in that line of prosperity which has ever since marked the village, town and city of Stratford. Another early settler was Mr. J. C. W. Daly, who arrived in the village in 1833 to assume the duties of agent of the Canada Company, and who took a great interest in the growth and prosperity of the village. This, however, was slow, but little progress having been made till the County of Perth was erected with Stratford as its county town, when it steadily grew until in 1852 the population was said to be about 900. From that time it increased in importance and population till four years ago when, amid great rejoicing, it was set apart as a city, its population having reached the required ten thousand. It is called the "Classic City," from its name. Through its centre flows a river which was named the Avon, so that Canada which has its London on the Thames, has its Stratford-upon Avon. It has been well described as follows:—

"Alighting at the magnificent depot, situated on the north of the town, the traveller sees before him no ordinary place. Railroad tracks leading to all parts in the country, signs of interprovincial and continental trade, car works and tall chimneys, the city itself expanding over a large area of land, are what can be seen without entering the city proper. In the business part of the city are to be seen massive and elegant blocks, where merchandise is conducted becoming the dignity of the place. On every side are to be seen evidences of comfort and prosperity, the numerous elegant mansions and costly residences leaving no doubt as to this being the case."

The Church of England seems to have been