

Our Contributors.

Historic St. Andrew's, Amherstburg.

The 28th and 29th of February were epoch marking days at Old St. Andrew's. It was the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian church in the then far West. Anniversary sermons were preached by Rev. Prof. William MacLaren, D.D., a former pastor, now of Knox College, Toronto. They were learned, heart-to-heart, persuasive discourses. A larger number than usual were received into the membership of the church, making the present roll outnumber any former roll. Former members were present from Windsor, Detroit and Colchester, the attendance at the observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper being still further augmented by nearly the entire membership of the neighboring Wesley church.

The history of St. Andrew's church, Amherstburg, begins in the days of the high pulpit and box pews. Session records in possession of the congregation date from the 21st of December, 1831, supplemented by the minutes of a business meeting of the congregation held on May 25th of the same year. These minutes show that there was already an organized congregation and that property had already been acquired for church purposes.

The Rev. Alexander Gale was in charge from 1828 to 1834, during which time he also taught school in the vicinity. The late Bishop Strachan, of revered memory, says, (as quoted by) Judge Woods, of Chatham, in 'The First Centennial of the Anglican Church in the County of Essex' that 'down to the close of the war of 1812-15 there were but four resident clergymen or missionaries of the Church of England in all Upper Canada; and till 1818 there was but one clergyman of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, and in 1827 there were but two.' The name of St. Andrew's of itself would indicate that the church in Amherstburg had been founded by the Established Church of Scotland; and the records substantiate the fact.

In the old church building, standing yet, though long ago turned to other use, the honors were divided between the minister of the gospel and the ministers of the crown, for to these was assigned the box pew on the left of the pulpit and to the former the one on the right.

The first extant Communion Roll is dated 19th September, 1832, and numbers thirty-eight names. The family names appearing on this roll that are still familiar hereabout are those of Duff, Kemp, Hacket, Cousins and Bruce. The oldest names still familiar appearing on the roll as subsequently made up are:—McGee and Noble, 1833; Dall, Callam and Schultz, 1839; Selters and Bartlet, 1840-42; Cameron, Botsford, Menzies and Mickle, 1843; followed immediately by those of Anderson, Duggall and McGregor. Later occur the names of Borrowman and MacLeod, 1848; Gibb, 1849; Campbell, 1850; Watters, 1852; Manson, 1853; Hedley and Affleck, 1855; Middleditch, 1873; Baltour, Trotter and Healy, 1875; Young, 1876; Beneteau, 1877; and Duncanson, 1878.

It was a zealous little congregation—this of thirty-eight members—as shown by frequent entries in the records such as these: "The offertory on Sunday, 21st September,

1832, was £4 in aid of the fund for the support of a missionary employed by the church in this Province." "Wednesday, 14th of November, 1832, was held as a day of public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for preservation from cholera, which raged so fatally in other parts of the country."

In those early days there was no presbytery of Chatham, the presbytery to which St. Andrew's church, Amherstburg, now belongs; no presbytery of London, formed between 1850 and 1852; no presbytery of Hamilton. In April, 1833, the session records were examined by the presbytery of York (now Toronto), and the following minute entered:—"These records, extending from the twenty-first December, eighteen hundred and thirty-one years, to the first of April, eighteen hundred and thirty-three years, are, by order of the Presbytery of York, attested at York, this seventh day of August, eighteen hundred and thirty-three years, by Wm. Rintoul, P.C."

After an interval of over a year of silence there is an entry in the church records, dated December 17th, 1838, which reads: "On account of the rebellion in the end of 1837, and the distracted state of the country, the session had not met for business for some time." The 15th Regiment is named incidentally as having been located at Amherstburg in 1835, and the Royal Canadian Rifles from 1846 to 1848 at least. Thus the history of the country is in part recorded in the records of the church, as the history of the church at large is also to be found in parts inscribed on the pages of the history of nations.

In 1844-45 took place that movement within the ranks of the Established Church of Scotland known in history as the Disruption, resulting, on this side of the water, in the organization of "The Presbyterian Church of Canada." The established church claimed and held the church property and records here, and for a time thereafter there were two sessions, the Rev. Alexander McKidd, of St. Andrew's church, Bytown, (now Ottawa) acting as moderator pro tempore for the Old Kirk session. There had been six elders in the church session in 1842. These divided equally, Messrs George Ironside, James Cousins and Robert Ironside, with the moderator, constituting the Old Kirk session; and Messrs. William Duff, Sr., James Noble, Sr., and John Cheyne, with the resident pastor, the Rev. Robert Peder, forming a session of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The majority of the members, however, appear to have gone out of the old order of the establishment, for the roll of membership of the last named session consists of fifty-six names in 1846.

During the seventy five years of her history St. Andrew's church has had but eight stated pastors, whose names, and the dates of their respective pastorates, are as follows:—Alexander Gale, 1828 to 1831; George Cheyne, 1831 to 1843; Robert Peden, 1844 to 1850; Wm. MacLaren, 1852 to 1857; Arch. McDiarmid, 1867 to 1870; Frederick Smith, 1874 to 1883; J. H. Paradise, 1884 to 1889; Thomas Nattress, 1890 to the present time. Three have gone to their reward. Dr. Wm. MacLaren, the anniversary preacher on this present occasion, is professor of Systematic

Theology these many years in Knox College, Toronto. The Rev. Archibald McDiarmid and the Rev. Frederick Smith are each enjoying a well-earned rest from the duties of the stated pastorate, the one in Windsor, the other at Bradford. The Rev. J. H. Paradise is in charge of a church at Joliette, Que.

The congregation has been honored in her interim moderators of session. Among them are numbered the redoubtable Dr. Burns, one time pastor of Knox church, Toronto, honored and memorable in the church's history; the Rev. Angus McColl, late of Chatham; Rev. William King, the noted slavery abolitionist of the Buxton Mission; Dr. George M. Milligan, of Old St. Andrew's church, Toronto, then of First Presbyterian church, Detroit; and, on two occasions, Dr. John Gray, of St. Andrew's church, Windsor, now principal of the Michigan Seminary, Kalamazoo.

The roll of Elders in the passing years is brief also, and honorable. It consists of these names: William Duff, Sr., son of the Rev. Wm. Duff, A.M., minister of Foveram, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the last quarter of the 18th century; James Noble, Sr., James Cousins, James Bell and John Cheyne, ordained on the 25th of November, 1836; Dr. Robt. Ironside and George Ironside; George Duncan, James Gibb and James Bartlet, ordained March 14th, 1852; Alexander Callam, who was laid to rest only the other week in the 97th year of life, ordained on the first Sabbath of April, 1867; John Anderson, ordained July 9th, 1872; Duncan Campbell and Richard Atkinson, ordained March 29th, 1888; John R. Menzies and John Proudfoot, M.A., ordained Nov. 18th, 1891, and Andrew Hacket and John Anderson, ordained March 4th, 1903.

Of temporary supply during vacancies in the pastorate there is record of George Jameson, 1850-1852, who was here again at a subsequent date between 1870 and 1874, during part of which interval the Rev. Dr. McRobbie, then a student, was in charge; Rev. George Cheyne, 1852; Rev. Mr. Pierce and Rev. Mr. Strach, 1857; Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, 1857-58; Mr. Labelle, 1860; J. Malcolm, 1863-64; Mr. Goodwillie; the Rev. Dr. Warden for a time, in his younger days; and Rev. Thomas Smith, as a student for the summer of 1889, now pastor of the church at Johnston, Presbytery of Owen Sound.

The speakers on Monday night were Mr. Alex. Bartlet, the veteran elder and police magistrate; Rev. J. C. Tolmie, representing Chatham presbytery; Mr. Geo. Bartlet, a son of the long-time session clerk, the late James Bartlet, all of Windsor. Also Rev. Mr. Fear, Rev. Wm. MacLaren, D.D., and the Honorable Chester W. Martin, United States Consul at this port.

Toronto Letter.

The meeting of Toronto Presbytery this month was exceedingly interesting—three items particularly so. The disposal of Knox church property; the proposal to pay the travelling expenses of Commissioners to the Assembly; and the appointing of Commissioners to the Assembly.

The question of Knox church property and its sale created quite a discussion, the right of the congregation to all the proceeds of the sale being questioned. Dr. Greig gave a short historical sketch, and on it based a claim for part of the proceeds for Cooke's church. It appears Knox was originally an Irish congregation, with only a few Scotch families; but after a time the Scotch element increased, and not feeling quite at home, separated and built the church