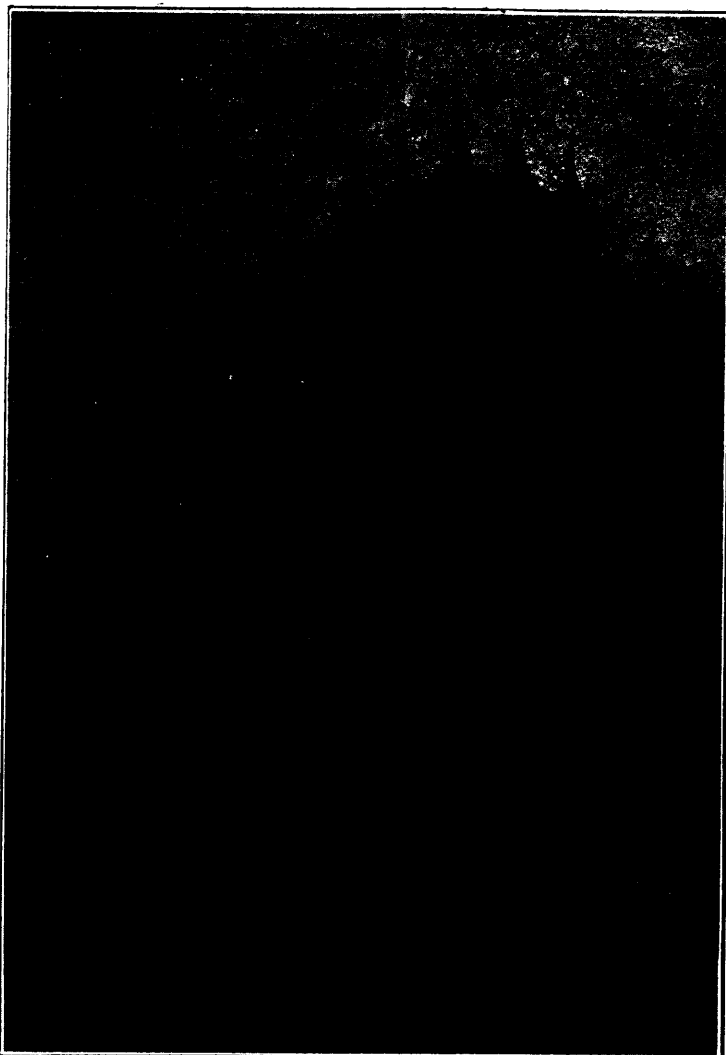


## CANADIAN CHURCHES, XI.

## St. Peter's, Brockville.

The Church of England is represented in Brockville by three congregations, of which St. Peter's is the oldest, Trinity and St. Paul's having been formed by swarms from the parent hive. The history of the parish of St. Peter's dates from the early part of the century. As early as 1798 ministerial acts seem to have been performed, and in 1814 the townships of Elizabethtown and Augusta were formed into a parish under Rev. John Bethune, afterwards Dean of Montreal. In 1819 Elizabethtown became a separate parish, leaving Brockville to itself, but the first authentic records date in June, 1820, when Rev. John Leeds was, as he signed himself, "officiating minister." The Synod records, however, give the date of the formation of the parish as 1814, there being only four older, namely: St. George's, Kingston, 1785; Bath, 1787; Trinity, Cornwall, 1803; and Williamsburg, about 1811.

The church was built in 1826 or 1827, Mr. Reynolds, father of Junior Judge Reynolds and S. Reynolds, Deputy Clerk of the Crown, both still residents of Brockville, doing the carpenter work. It was completed and consecrated on the 31st of August, 1834, the ceremony being performed by the Right Rev. Charles James Stewart, Lord Bishop of Quebec. The Hon. Charles Jones had given the site, a commanding one, and he handed over the title deeds and keys to the Bishop, who afterwards entrusted them to Henry Jones, Paul Glassford and John Bogert, to hold in trust for the use of the parish. The first confirmation was held in the church on the 27th of October, 1835, by the Bishop of Quebec, when 31 persons were confirmed. The next was held in 1840, by the Lord Bishop of



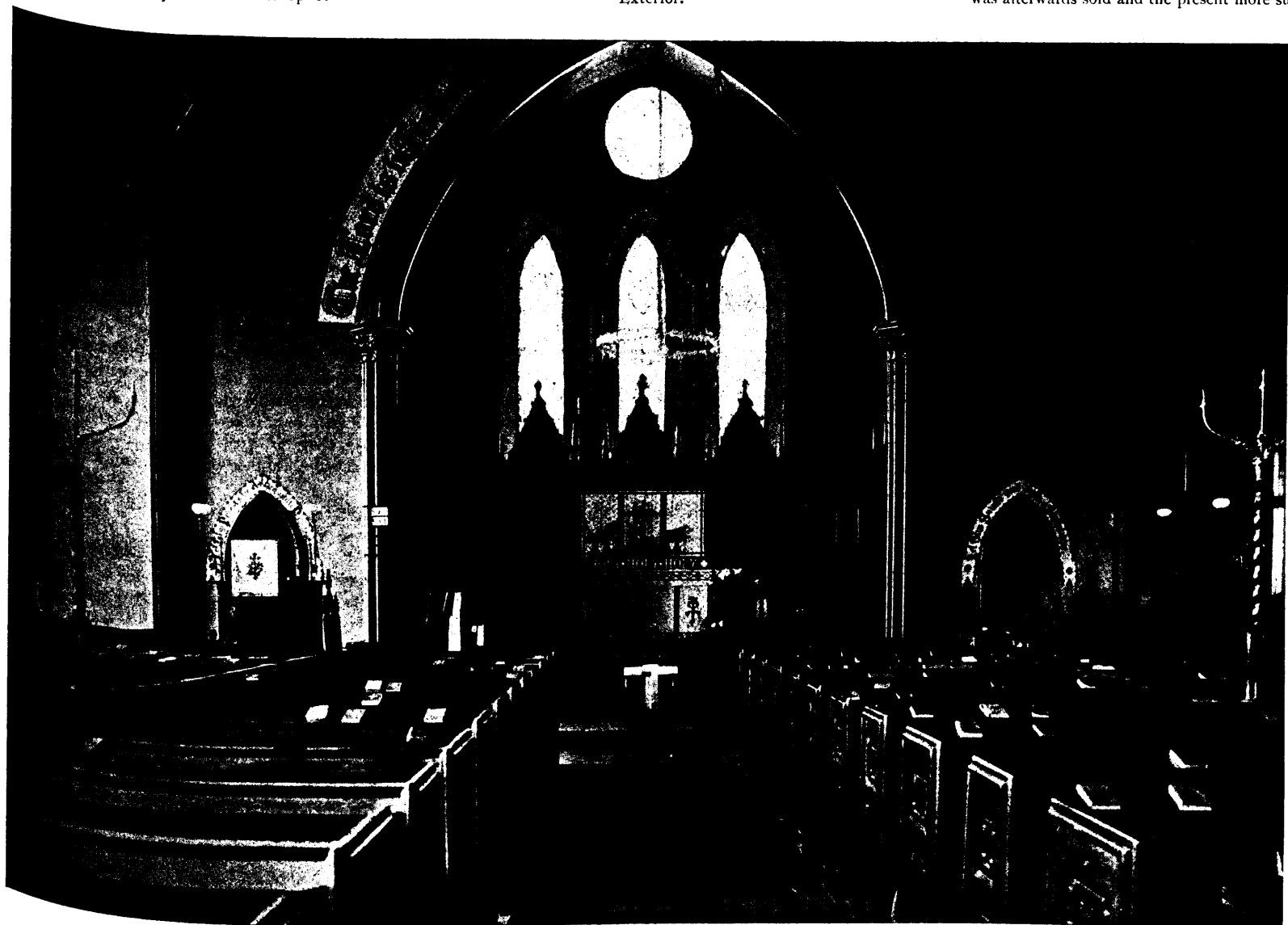
EXTERIOR.

Toronto, the diocese having been meantime divided.

St. Peter's is in the form of a Latin cross. The original edifice consisted of only the front part or nave of the present building. In 1851 it was enlarged and the transept and chancel added. The new part was at first seated with benches, but in 1853 the entire building was re-seated with pews of solid black walnut, which still remain. A number of square pews were then done away with. The organ was at that time in the gallery. In 1859 an organ chamber was built where the main building and the east transept intersect, and a new organ placed therein. In January, 1875, the organ was destroyed by fire and the church somewhat damaged, a man who had a mania for such deeds having applied the incendiary's torch. When restored, a new organ by Warren was procured.

The handsome stained glass window in the chancel was brought from New York when the church was enlarged and placed there by the munificence of D. B. O. Ford, assisted by Mrs. Bogert and Mrs. Sidney Jones. It was soon after damaged by some miscreant having fired several bullets through it, the small holes having remained till recently. A small window over the large one referred to was added recently by Mrs. Samuel Keefer, who also presented a very fine brass altar cross in memory of her mother, Mrs. Pocock, wife of Capt. Pocock, R.N.

The pews were originally freehold, and according to an old list the price ranged from £8 to £60. The parish has no endowment, except a good rectory house and garden, with a block of land near by used for cemetery purposes, but recently leased to the town and converted into a public park. Hon. Charles Jones, who gave the site for the church, by deed, dated 3rd December, 1812, also gave a lot for a parsonage, which was afterwards sold and the present more suitable

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BROCKVILLE.—Interior.  
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