

tion of the members of the Church of England resident in that quarter. Accordingly a site was purchased by that generous friend of the church, Richard Juson, Esq., and presented as a gift, and by the year 1851 "the Church of the Ascension," one of the prettiest churches in the diocese, was erected on the very sight offered by Mr. Hamilton in 1835. Of this church the Rev. John Hebden (on the nomination of the rector) was appointed the first incumbent.

This accommodation sufficed but a short time to meet the increasing wants of the church population, and in the year 1852 it was thought necessary to enlarge Christ Church by the erection of a new chancel and a portion of the nave "to form the commencement of a handsome and commodious church which might last for generations, and in point of style and dimensions be somewhat in keeping with the population, wealth and prosperity of the city." The corner-stone was laid, in the absence of the bishop, by the rector, at the request of the members of the building committee, consisting of the following gentlemen: Thomas Stinson, Samuel Mills, Peter Carroll, Henry McKinstry, Thomas Blakeney, and the rector. In connection with this movement an address was issued to the public of Canada and the Church at Home appealing for help. Bishop Strachan accompanied the appeal with a letter in which he spoke highly of the zeal and piety of the rector, who, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone, in the course of his address to the assembled parishioners, remarked:—

"It is not often that it falls to the lot of a clergyman to witness a third time the laying of the corner stone of a new church within the bounds of the same parish, unless perhaps it be the result of fire or some other such calamity. That we have been thus far exempt from disaster, and that with us the frequency of the ceremony has been the result of prosperity and increase, is a just cause for devout thankfulness to Almighty God, which I trust we are all desirous to appreciate. It is now seventeen years since many of you who are here present and many more who are now lying in their graves around us, witnessed on this spot the laying of the corner stone of Christ Church, where you have so often united in the sublime language of the liturgy, listened to the preaching of God's Holy Word and participated in His blessed sacraments. You have witnessed our numbers increasing, till it became necessary to provide further accommodation by the erection of a second church. The old hive sent forth a young and industrious swarm, the parent stem a healthy and vigorous shoot. The mother church I rejoice to say has reason to be proud of her daughter, the father of his child, and although for a time the parent may have felt jealous of the daughter's affections and deemed her in too great haste to escape from parental authority, I am happy to say that all such feeling has passed away, and that every unkind reflection is buried in oblivion."

We must not forget to record the fact that in com-

pleting the new chancel, great aid and encouragement was afforded by the ladies of the congregation, who by their praiseworthy exertions realized the large sum of £600 or \$2,400. Two years after its completion, St. Thomas' Church was built and served by the clergy of Christ Church till the year 1857, when it was made a separate parish, and on the nomination of the rector, the Rev. Dr. Blackman was the first incumbent. In the previous year 1856, a chapel of ease was opened at the west end, a building having been provided by John Mills, Esq., where the services of the church were performed and an efficient Sunday school conducted. Eventually in the year 1873, the Hon. Samuel Mills, erected in the immediate vicinity, a handsome stone church of ecclesiastical design, which he gave over to the rector of Christ Church during his lifetime. It was called "All Saints," (and after having been served by Mr. Geddes and his curate for several years, and having sent forth another congregation, who built the church of St. Mark's, forming a separate parish,) it was deeded to the Bishop of Niagara, the Rev. Mr. Geddes having voluntarily surrendered his rights therein. The next important undertaking in the history of Christ Church was the completion of the design which had been begun in 1852. In 1873 a subscription list was opened and the sum of \$22,000 was subscribed, but as it required \$20,000 more it was resolved to borrow that amount. The work was proceeded with, and a strong incentive to hasten its completion was found in the prospect of its being selected as the Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Niagara about to be created, an event which was consummated by the consecration of the late Bishop Fuller, on the 1st May, 1875. On the occasion of the demolition of old Christ Church, the rector preached what might be termed its funeral sermon from the text 2 Cor: v, 1. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens." It was with mingled feelings of sorrow and joy that the older members of the congregation witnessed the taking down of the old building, of which it might be said in the language of the psalmist, "He that hewed timber afore out of the forest was known to bring it to an excellent work," but of which on the morrow might be added, "But now they break down all the carved work thereof with axes and hammers." Nature seemed in union with their feelings, for the day closed with a heavy downpour of rain.

On the 20th of February, 1876, the cathedral was opened with an octave of sermons. The preachers on the Sunday were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cox, morning and evening, the Rev. Dr. Shelton, of Buffalo, in the afternoon, and in succession the Venerable Archdeacon MacMurray, the Rev. Canons Read, Dixon, Holland, Worrell and Hebden, and on the closing Sunday the Bishop of Toronto, the Bishop of Niagara (Dr. Fuller) and the Dean of Niagara. After gratefully acknowledging