

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 97. GRENVILLE AND CALUMET.

BY MRS. HARRIS.

GRENVILLE VILLAGE is situated on the Ottawa River, half way between Montreal and Ottawa, and at the head of the Grenville canal. The Canadian Pacific and Grenville and Carillon railways pass through the village. In summer the Ottawa River Navigation Company's steamers ply between Grenville and Ottawa City.

It is an old village nothing modern about it. It is in the County of Argenteuil, and only separated from the Province of Ontario by the Ottawa River. Mission work has been carried on in this place continuously for some ninety years.

The Rev. Mr. Bradford, a retired clergyman, resided a few miles east of Grenville nearly one hundred years ago, and was the pioneer clergyman of any denomination to do duty in this part of the country. The Rev. Joseph Abbott was sent out from England by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in 1818, to succeed Mr. Bradford. He was the son of a Yorkshire farmer, educated at Aberdeen College, an M.A., a man of considerable influence. He married Miss Harriet Bradford, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Bradford, and they were the parents of the late Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, who succeeded Sir John A. Macdonald as Premier of Canada.

The Rev. Joseph Abbott took up his residence at this time in St. Andrews, and this fact may have been the reason for the Deanery of St. Andrews that now applies to this section of country.

Besides attending his missionary duties in that village, he acted as chaplain for the two companies of Royal Staff Corps then stationed in Grenville. These companies were employed during the summer months in making a canal between Grenville and Carillon, and during the winter months they were quartered in Montreal. He held services in this village, first in a marquee, then in a carpenter's shop, then in a schoolhouse, from 1818 to 1828, at which date he removed to Abbotsford. From this time till 1831 the Rev. Andrew Balfour, M.A., resided in Grenville and conducted services, morning and evening, and a Sunday-school in the schoolhouse which had been suitably fitted up with seats and a pulpit.

In 1828 the Rev. William Abbott, M.A., came out from England, and was stationed by the S.P.G. at St. Andrews. In 1831 the Rev. Joseph Abbott returned to Grenville, and resided two miles from the village until 1846, when he was appointed Bursar of McGill College, Montreal. These two brothers spent

their lives in missionary work for the Church in St. Andrews, Grenville, and surrounding country until 1846, when Rev. Joseph Abbott left his brother alone in the work.

The territory once occupied by the Abbott brothers has now ten clergymen, and needs more to cover the ground.

It is said that Joseph Abbott crossed the river to the village of Hawkesbury, on the Ontario side, and held services in a schoolhouse. He also looked the land over for a site whereon to build a church. On one occasion, while crossing the river, the ferry was managed by a Roman Catholic woman, who asked him if he had ever been in the Roman Catholic church in their village. "Tut, tut, woman," he replied, "do you think I would enter the house of Baal?" It is also quoted of the worthy gentleman that he often bade his hearers "not to do as he did, but do as he said."

The hardships of this mission were many. In 1832 the present church, as shown in the cut on the following page, was built. This undertaking was helped on largely by the Bishop of Quebec, Bishop Stewart, who never visited Grenville, as his diocese was so very large, but thus displayed his interest in the work. In this same year the Venerable G. J. Mountain, D.D., Archdeacon of Quebec, consecrated Coadjutor Bishop in 1836, visited Grenville, and his autograph is still preserved in the old archives of the parish. It proves that he also was interested in this young mission. At the same time as the church was erected, Mr. Abbott built a parsonage at his own cost, having acquired the land for the purpose, and afterwards sold it to the Church authorities.

The first record of a vestry meeting held is on Easter Monday, April 4th, 1831. The church was opened in 1832, and at a vestry following it was named St. Matthew's, and a marble slab, with name and date, placed above the entrance. This slab is still in a good state of preservation. The interior of the church was nicely fitted up. On the back of the chancel were the Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer in gold letters on a black ground. In the gallery was a barrel organ, beautifully encased in oak, the money for which was largely donated by Mr. Thomas Kains. This organ was a luxury for a country church; it played the old familiar tunes of "Duke Street," "St. Ann," and "Old Hundred." It was considered an honor to be allowed to turn the crank for the services. A strong choir of men's voices accompanied the organ. The services were hearty. The organ was imported from England, and cost \$400.

The church is built of solid stone, and stands on a most picturesque site, with surrounding scenery that is grand and magnificent, with the Long Sault Rapids of the Ottawa surging and foaming, in singular contrast to the stillness

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