



LONDON, ONT.

ing anecdotes which the good bishop delighted in relating of this early experience. The following is a good illustration. During his first winter in Canada, in company with Col. Curran, one of the first settlers in Adelaide, he walked from London to the township of Adelaide in the middle of winter. They carried between them a quarter of beef, for the relief of the settlers of that township, who were bordering on starvation. There were in those days no roads or landmarks; consequently they became lost in the bush, and had to remain out all night, closely followed by howling wolves, which were attracted by the smell of the beef.

Amid such scenes and experiences this pioneer of the gospel spent his early years in Ontario. Through his energy and perseverance, and with his influence he secured to the church the endowments of St. Paul's Rectory, London; St. John's, London Township, and Adelaide. After years of hard work and toil in the cause of Christ, he lived to see the forest give way to the axe of the early settlers, large and productive farms where but a short time since had been the trackless forest, and the little village of London expand into a large, flourishing and handsome city.

The site upon which St. Paul's Church, which is closely connected with the name and memory of Dr. Cronyn, stands was deeded by the crown for church purposes about the year 1835. The first church erected was of frame, a very unpretentious place of worship, but all that was required in those days of small things, when London was but a village. In 1844 this church was burnt down, and very soon after the present church was erected, at what was then considered a very considerable outlay, being the largest west of Toronto. The corner stone was laid on the 24th of June, 1844, by Dr. Strachan, Bishop of Toronto, and in the following year, regular services were held by the Rev. Dr. Cronyn, the first rector. The plans, etc., were furnished by Mr. Thomas, architect of Toronto, under whose

supervision it was carried on to completion. The architectural style of St. Paul's is mixed Gothic, in which early English predominates. Many of the details, both in design and workmanship, are very beautiful, and reflect credit on the constructors, for it must be remembered that in those days there were no railways, and skilled labor was difficult to obtain. The main entrance, on the west front, is approached through an open porch and vestibule, and occupies the space of the central tower, which rises to the height of 130 feet, and is a very striking feature of the edifice, being furnished on the top with graceful and

well proportioned cut stone pinnacles. The tower contains a beautiful chime of bells, which were procured from Messrs. Mears, Whitechapel, London, England, in 1852. They were conveyed to Port Stanley by water, and from thence brought by trains. The main portion of the church is covered by an open oak roof, and there are commodious galleries over the north and south aisles and over the west end. The seating capacity is 1350; length, 100 feet, with a chancel 40 feet; width of main building, 80 feet. The chancel and choir was rebuilt in 1869, during the rectorship of the late bishop, Dr. Hellmuth, when the organ was removed from the position it formerly occupied in the west gallery to the chamber of the church. The rectory of St. Paul's is one of the fully endowed government rectories, and the appointment, originally the gift of the crown, is now deputed to the bishop of the diocese, under certain restrictive canons. The growth of the church in the City of London may, to some extent, be estimated by the numerous progeny that has gathered around the old mother church. In 1863 the first break was made in the original parish by the erection of Christ Church in the south end of the city, since which have been built St. James', also in the south, the Memorial Church and St. Matthew's in the east, St. George's in the west, and the Chapter House in the north, a total seating capacity of 3,750, fully keeping pace with the increase of population. From St. Paul's have been furnished to the Canadian Church no less than three bishops, viz., Rt. Rev. Dr. Cronyn, Dr. Hellmuth, and the late lamented bishop of Saskatchewan, Dr. McLean, who before leaving for Manitoba, was for many years assistant to Dr. Cronyn. Up to the year 1871, St. Paul's was the Cathedral Church. At that date the then bishop of the diocese, Dr. Hellmuth, proposed the erection of a diocesan cathedral, upon a site in the north of the city, and a part of the cathedral buildings, viz., a chapter house, was erected. No further