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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 120—CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE,
MONTREAL.



SKETCH of the parish of St. James the Apostle would hardly be complete without a preliminary glance at the previous record of its rector, who, in addition to founding this parish, has taken an active and prominent part in the development of the parochial system and the extension of the Church in Montreal.

In June, 1848, the Rev. Jacob Ellegood was appointed junior assistant at Christ Church, now the cathedral church of Montreal. Point St. Charles being then a portion of the original parish of Montreal, its pastoral care was in a measure assigned to Rev. Mr. Ellegood. Here he was called upon to minister to the unfortunate victims of ship fever and smallpox, who died in such numbers during the years 1847-48 that many bodies at a time had to be cast together into one grave. The spiritual care of these poor creatures cost the Church in this province the lives of seven of her most devoted missionaries. Mr. Ellegood, though his life was spared, received into his system an amount of the poisonous virus of the deadly diseases to which he was constantly exposed which told injuriously upon his system in after years.

In October, 1848, he was appointed incumbent of St. Anne's Church, Griffintown, a district contiguous to Point St. Charles,

which, being at that time most deficient in sanitary appliances, became the most plague-stricken section of the city during the great outbreak of cholera in 1849.

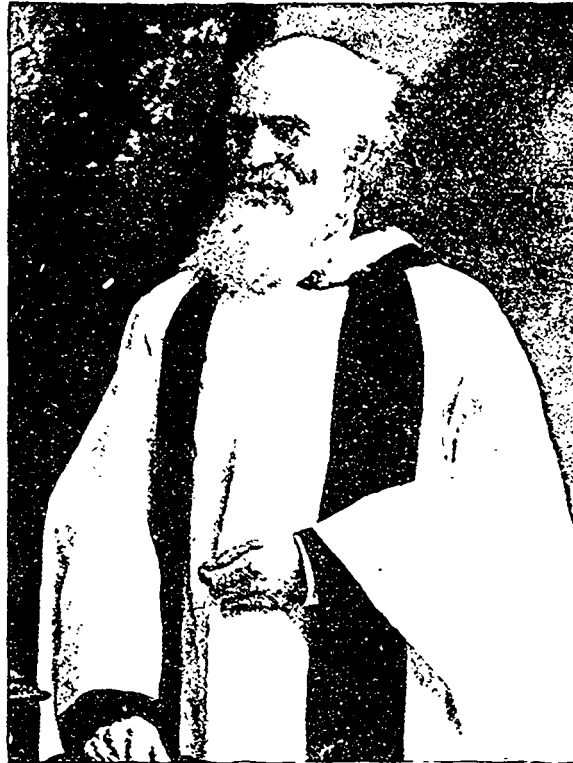
The trials occasioned to pastor and people by this dreadful disease were aggravated by the destruction of the church by fire in 1850. The building having been mortgaged to the full extent of its value, the insurance was only sufficient to cover the debt, leaving nothing to go towards rebuilding. By hard and diligent

efforts, however, a sufficient sum was shortly raised to justify the erection of a new church and schoolhouse.

At this juncture it was proposed to move to a more attractive locality; Mr. Ellegood, however, maintained that the site of the church having been given expressly for the poor inhabitants of Griffintown it would not be right or honorable to move it to any other neighborhood.

The only change that was made was in the name of the church. A Roman Catholic church of St. Ann having been built near by during the interval between the burning of the old church and the erection of the new, it was thought advisable,

by way of distinction, that a different name should be adopted. The new church was therefore known as St. Stephen's and was opened for divine service towards the end of the year 1851. Though the original St. Stephen's has since been replaced by a more handsome and capacious building, the church and parish still remain in the neighborhood which it was the desire of the founders to provide with the regular and permanent ministrations of the



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