



Niagara Falls, from the Canada Southern Railway.

Niagara districts is to be traced back to the capture of Fort Niagara from the French by Sir William Johnson in 1759. From that time the said fort was constantly occupied by English garrisons whose chaplains regularly performed divine service to the troops and others connected with the settlement, which was wholly on what is now the American side of the Niagara. The late Bishop Bethune, in his "Memory of Bishop Strachan," tells us that in 1820 the first clergyman west of Toronto was at Ancaster. On the Niagara peninsula there were three—at Niagara, Chippawa and Grimsby. Of the four parishes represented here, Niagara is the oldest and calls for a more extended notice than the others.

The seat of the government of the province was first established in Newark (now Niagara.) Lieut.-Gov. Simcoe built here a small frame house, which served as a Parliament House as well as a residence for the Lieut.-Governor. The first session of the first Parliament of Upper Canada was opened here on the 17th Sept., 1792. In 1794, the Lieut.-Governor, finding that the fort on the American side must be surrendered to the United States, removed the capital. In 1795 the town of Niagara contained about seventy houses, most of them frame buildings.

The Rev. Robert Addison, the first Incumbent of the church at Niagara, and the first clergyman in what is now the Diocese of Niagara, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Soon after his ordination he applied to the Propagation Society for a mission in the North American colonies, and was appointed in 1791 to the charge of

Niagara. He arrived in May, 1792, and soon found that his mission was without a definite boundary, and that the population of the district was considerable. He was required to visit stations twenty and thirty miles from Niagara. The Mohawks, who were settled on the Grand River, about seventy miles from him, also received his constant attention. From his people he received a mere trifle, and from all other sources scarcely £100 a year, while his duties were of the most severe and exhausting kind. He received the sympathy and loyal support of Col. Butler of the Rangers, whom Mr. Addison, in his record of deaths, touchingly describes as "my patron." Previous to the erection of St. Mark's Church, public worship was held in a room of the barracks, and afterwards in the council-room of the Six Nations, which stood on the commons near the barracks. In 1804 the present church was commenced, and completed so far as the older part is concerned in 1808, at a cost of nearly £1,200.

In 1812 a war broke out between Great Britain and the United States, during which the town was taken, most of the inhabitants sent into the interior of the States as prisoners of war, and Mr. Addison's house

plundered and he was harassed till he became dangerously ill. The burying-ground was dug through with trenches, which can still be traced, and the church itself used as a magazine for stores. On the flight of the enemy the church as well as every other thing was burned, nothing but the stone walls remaining of the sacred edifice. In 1816 His Majesty was pleased to order that £500 sterling be applied towards the restoration of the church, which was far from sufficient, and which could not at the time be supplemented by contributions from the people who had lost everything they possessed during the unhappy contest.

The old church yard contains the graves of many of the loyal militiamen and regulars who fell in defence of Niagara on the 27th May, 1813. But one old moss grown stone remains, the inscription on which breathes the spirit of loyal devotion of the times of 1812. It reads as follows:—"Sacred to the memory of Capt. M. McClelland, aged 42 years, and Charles Wright and William Cameron, in the 25th year of their age, of the 1st Regiment of Lincoln Militia, who gloriously fell on the 27th day of May, 1813. Also of Adjutant Loyde, of the King's Regiment of Infantry."

May the names of these gallant men be preserved from the oblivion which covers the rest of their comrades who lie in the sacred earth of St. Mark's, Niagara!

The late Bishop Strachan thus alluded to the services of the first incumbent of Niagara:—"There are many pleasing reminiscences about Niagara. It is either the second or third congregation collected in Upper Canada. It was for nearly forty