



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON.

in the Cathedral of Quebec, by Bishop Mountain.

Many and varied were his experiences during his long incumbency of this his first parish. Canada had two terrible visitations of Asiatic cholera, one of ship-fever among immigrants, one of rebellion and one of invasion. It requires but a brief investigation of the parish registers to be convinced of the faithful and untiring work done, largely unaided, by Mr. Geddes. In the times of cholera and ship fever the funerals were of daily occurrence, and the registers shew that they were nearly all taken by himself. The sick visiting connected with this, to say nothing of the funerals themselves, represents an enormous amount of work.

After getting the parish thoroughly organized and in a prosperous condition, Mr. Geddes applied himself again to his studies, and in 1848 he graduated from King's College, Toronto. Subsequently he took the degree of B.A. at Trinity and afterwards that of M.A.

During forty-five years he continued as rector, and saw the church grow and prosper. He was made chaplain to the jail and hospital and was one of the grammar school trustees, Dr. Craigie and Rev. Father Gordon being the other two. He was also appointed a member of the Council of Trinity College, Chaplain to the Incorporated Battalion of Militia, then under command of Col. Gourlay, and was Chaplain to the 47th Regiment, the Rifle Brigade and other regiments that were quartered here later on. The Gore and Wellington Church Society made him secretary, an office which he held many years, and for a great length of time he was Clerical Secretary of the Synod of Toronto. Later on he was made examining chaplain to Bishop Bethune of Toronto; then Rural Dean, then Prolocutor to the Provincial Synod, and when the Diocese of Niagara was formed he became Dean. His Alma Mater then conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.C.L.

During this time Hamilton had become a large and important city and new parishes were formed. The old Christ Church was taken down and the present Christ Church Cathedral erected.

In 1879 the Dean retired from the parish and went to England where he was appointed rector of Tatsfield, Surrey, and a member of the Council of the Diocese of Rochester.

Dean Geddes, however, was a Canadian, and though loyal to the mother country dearly loved his native land, and the longings of his heart induced him after a few years to resign his English living and come back to Canada. For two years he took charge of the parish of Chippawa and then returned to Hamilton, at the age of over seventy-seven years, to live the remainder of his days amid the scenes of his early and successful ministry.

About half-past one o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, October 27th, he was seized with a severe attack of pneumonia, and his physician, Dr. Ridley, who had been his life long friend and supporter, gave little hope for his recovery. The dean himself felt that his time was short. Calmly, and without expressing regret or showing fear at the near approach of death, he told the sorrowing friends around him that he believed the end would come before another nightfall. Towards morning he rallied, however. His extraordinary vitality asserted itself and by noon of that day he was somewhat better. For three weeks he held out against the inevitable, but at length breathed his last on the afternoon of Monday, the 16th of November. His widow, two sons, John and George, three daughters, Mrs. C. Brough, Mrs. (Major) Phipps and Mrs. (Dr.) John Walters, survive him.

The dean is of a long-lived family, his grandmother having reached the great age of ninety-two. He was one of a family of sixteen children, of whom nine daughters and five sons grew up, married and raised families. Six of his brothers and sisters survive him and are in the seventies and eighties. These are: Mr. Forbes Geddes, who lives at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and who was the youngest brother of the family, and five sisters. Mrs. Grier of Toronto, Mrs. Henry of Hamilton; Mrs. Armstrong of Ottawa; Mrs. Hallowell of Toronto; and Mrs. Gold, who lives in England, the three first mentioned being older than the Dean and the last three younger. He is the fourth of the family who has passed away in less than two years. At the beginning of last year there were three brothers and seven sisters living, their combined ages being 750 years. A year and a half ago his eldest brother died, and since then two sisters and another brother.

Dean Geddes has had his place in the history of the Canadian Church from very early days. When he was ordained to the ministry there was no Diocese west of Quebec. The Bishop of Quebec was also Bishop of the whole of British North America west of the ancient capital. Ontario was almost a trackless wild with here and there small towns, some of which were