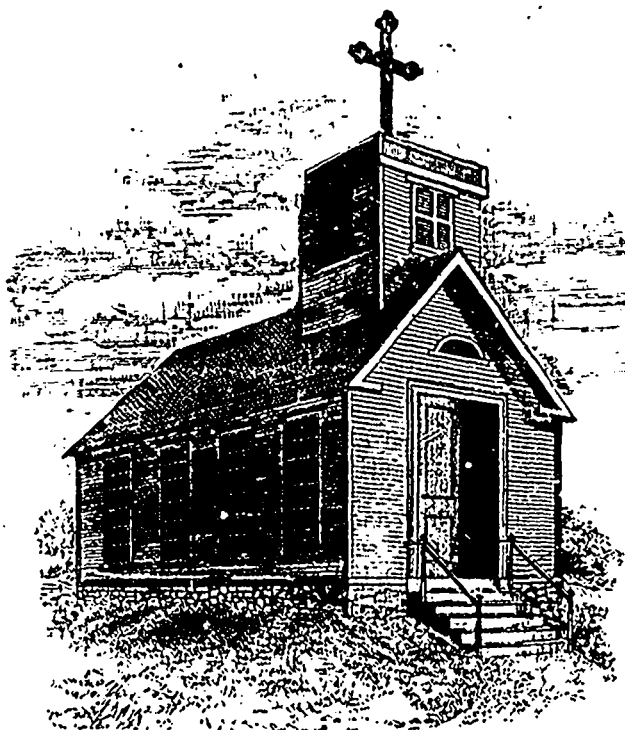




ORIGINAL GRACE CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N.B., 1829-38.

voutness of his character. He spent the later years of his life quietly in England, where he died in 1876, aged 76 years. His son, the Rev. Arthur Wentworth Wiggins, at present holds the position of British chaplain at Chittagong, India.

In December, 1836, the Rev. William Harrison, who, after reading Divinity with the younger Dr. Gray, finished his theological studies in England, entered upon the rectorship of Grace Church.

It having been found that sufficient accommodation was not afforded in Grace Church to meet the wants of the rapidly increasing population of Portland (as St. John, North, was then called), it was decided that a large church should be erected with the least possible delay. A new site, on Main street, was donated by the Hon. Charles Simonds, a prominent vestryman and subsequently a warden. The new church, named St. Luke's, although erected wholly by voluntary contributions, was a spacious building for those days, 50 x 75, and cost between two and three thousand pounds. It was consecrated November 1st, 1840, by the Right Rev. John Inglis, D.D., Bishop of Nova Scotia, and holding at that time ecclesiastical jurisdiction over New Brunswick.

Grace Church edifice was taken down and removed to Wallstreet upon land given by Chief Justice Chipman, and at his own expense re-erected. It was long known by the name of the "Valley

Church;" as the chapel of ease to St. Luke's, it was named St. Paul's Chapel.

The Rev. William Harrison—in 1863 made Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton—was rector of Grace Church two years, then held the rectorship of St. Luke's till May, 1875, a period of thirty-seven years.

Sir Leonard Tilley—then plain Mr. S. L. Tilley—acted as vestry clerk for fifteen years, warden for six years, and superintendent of the Sunday school for nearly fifteen years. His son, the Rev. William Harrison Tilley, acted as curate to Canon Harrison for four years, 1867-1871. Of a warm and winning personality, and universally beloved by his people, Mr. Tilley's stay in St. Luke's was only too brief. For about a year he was assistant at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's London, Ont., and then for four years he was the first rector of the Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church. He then was elected first assistant in the Cathedral of St. James', Toronto. Mr. Tilley's unremitting pastoral labours in Portland, in London and in Toronto made serious inroads on his health.

He was attacked by inflammation of the membrane of the brain, followed by tubercular disease of the brain itself, resulting in his untimely and lamented death at the age of thirty-three.

Immediately succeeding Harrison Tilley, the Rev. W. B. Armstrong served as Curate of St. Luke's for three and a half years. He is now Rector of Grand Falls, New Brunswick.

By a seemingly strange coincidence, the church building which Canon Harrison was so largely instrumental in erecting, and which, with all its both happy and sad associations he so fondly loved, cease to exist with the actual ceasing of his pastorate—with the new man was to come a new building. On May 27th, 1875, the Rev. F. H. Almon, now rector of Trinity church, Halifax, was elected rector. At noon of the following day the most disheartening event in the history of St. Luke's church occurred—the total destruction of the edifice by fire. The Rev. Mr. Almon's term of service covered three years and two months. During his rectorship (after worshipping for nearly a year in the Temperance Hall, Simonds street, built on the site of old Grace Church), the parish finished the substantial and commodious school room in the basement of the church, and erected the walls, roof and spire (all of them at that time only partially finished), of the main church edifice.

On August 28th, 1878, the present rector, Rev. L. G. Stevens, B.D., was elected, and in