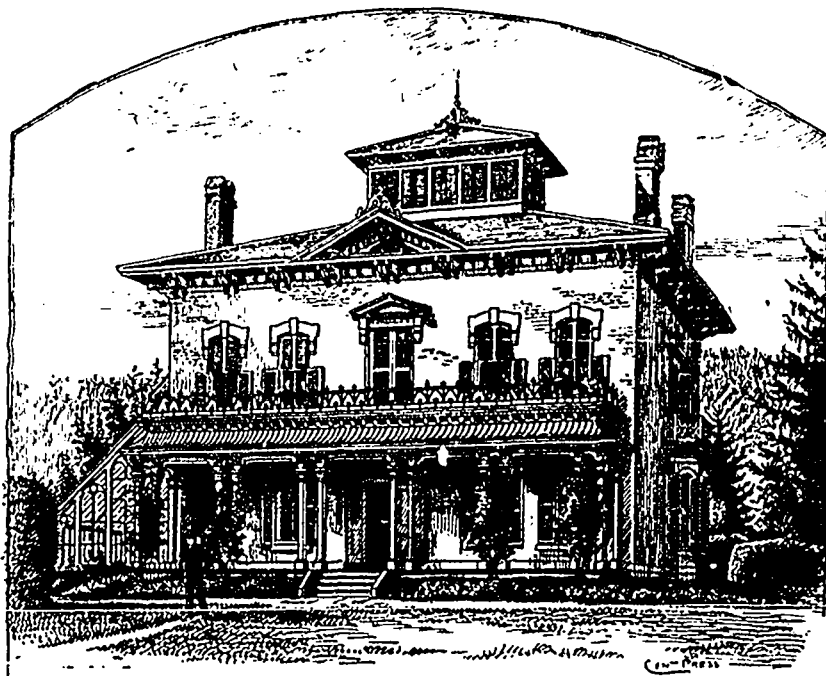




ST. PETER'S HOME, EAST HAMILTON.

all familiar with the stories of the wild, hardly civilized life of the mining towns in California and other western states, in days gone by, where a man's life was of no account, and religion was unheard of. Few would willingly have such tales told of any portion of our Dominion, and, yet, already we hear of mining towns springing into existence in British Columbia where vice flourishes, while there are as yet only occasional religious services, if any at all. As I mentioned in a former article,* in one of these new mining towns called Nelson, on the Kootenay River, there are nine saloons and not a single place of worship. The miners are men of many different nationalities, and are for the most part rough and illiterate. Very few women live in these mining camps, and homes in the true sense are almost unknown. The railway navies form another type of people to whom the Church should minister more frequently than is possible with the present limited staff of clergy. Many interesting stories were told us of mission work among these men during the building of the C.P.R. of days and nights spent on construction trains, of rough meals, etc., undertaken for the sake of "Witnessing for Christ." The three clergymen attached to the Kamloops Missionary district (a district 50,000 square miles in extent), give services to the men employed on the C.P.R., and other railways now under construction as often as possible—probably once a month, for which they are always warmly thanked.

The farming community together with those

who go in for cattle raising on ranches are very rapidly increasing in numbers in British Columbia, and although many are still struggling to make both ends meet, the prospects are bright for them, and few there are who are not satisfied with their new homes in this favoured country. And, certain it is, that although unable to do much now towards the support of the Church's work, these people will, in the days to come be those from whom that support may safely be expected, and this is only one more reason why the Church should strain every effort to bring these people and to keep them within her fold now, for otherwise they will certainly

be lost to her if left in the days of their poverty as sheep without a shepherd.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 61.—ST. PETER'S, HAMILTON, ONTARIO.

HAMILTON is the see city of the Diocese of Niagara and of late years has formed several new parishes. Quite recently it has enlarged its borders by taking in a portion of the township of Barton, which lies on the eastern side. This will extend the city considerably to the east and increase its size and population. East Hamilton has always been considered a very beautiful part of the city, and numerous fine residences are to be found there. Gardens are to be seen there, blooming with flowers and loaded with fruits and vegetables. The climate is so temperate that grapes and peaches grow to great perfection, while apples of the choicest kind flourish abundantly.

For a long time the good old church of St. Thomas was monarch of all it surveyed, but its rights have been disputed in a brotherly way by other parishes which recently have come into existence.

On the first of May, 1887, the first service in connection with St. Matthew's Church was held in a small store-room on Wentworth Street (in the north-eastern portion of the city), when the Rev. Thomas Geoghegan, the newly appointed incumbent, conducted the service and had about

* April, 1891.