

yet was frequented by persons of greatest note in the country. The Governors General, and Commanders in Chief, from the time of Sir Frederick Haldimand downwards, generally resided during the summer months at Sorel, where they possessed an official residence, prettily situated on the banks of the Richelieu. And in 1819, during the incumbency of Mr. Jackson, and whilst forming one of his congregation, His Grace the Duke of Richmond, Lennox, and Aubigne, then Governor General, met with his death from a singular and well-known cause. A young fox had been purchased in the Sorel market, and made a pet of by one of the staff, and whilst the Duke was amusing himself with it, the treacherous animal suddenly snapped at and bit his finger. Dr. Christopher Carter, a respected local practitioner, was speedily in attendance, and did what was thought necessary, and the wound was supposed to have wholly healed. But the virus had already spread through the system, and in a few weeks afterwards, whilst journeying on a tour of inspection up the Ottawa, the dreadful symptoms of hydrophobia displayed themselves, progressing so rapidly that the head of this great ducal house, and Governor General of Canada, died miserably in a barn, whither he had hurriedly sought shelter by the road-side.

The successor to the Duke in the government, the Right Honourable the Earl of Dalhousie, in the very first year of his residence at Sorel, proved himself a munificent benefactor to the little church. Grieved at its neglected and ruinous appearance, and wholly unsolicited, he most kindly proffered to the rector a donation of £300 from the Seigniorly Funds, towards putting the church in a state of better repair. The offer was truly a generous one, and "enhanced," as the vestry minute expresses it, "by the manner in which the noble donor was pleased to announce it." But the wisdom of expending so large a sum upon an old wooden building may perhaps be doubted. It was speedily placed, however, in a state of much needed repair, and painted within "without; a new spire, covered with tin, was erected; and an addition made to the church, at its eastern end, of an hexagonal recess, containing, on its three sides, tables of the Lord's Prayer, the Decalogue, and the Apostles' Creed.

On the 5th of November, 1821, Sorel, together with Montreal, and other parishes in the Diocese, was formally constituted a rectory, by Letters Patent from the Crown. As early as 1795, Mr. Doty and his parishioners had applied to Bishop Jacob Mountain, to ascertain their exact legal status in this country, and whether it corresponded in any respect with the churches and Parishes in England. The Bishop conferred upon the subject with Lord Dorchester, the Governor, who ordered the Attorney General to report upon it, which he did to the effect that, "the rector and vestry were not a corporation, and had not any authority to call parish meetings for assessing the people." In transmitting this opinion to Mr. Doty, the Bishop stated "that he had himself entertained no doubts upon the subject, but that he had sought the sanction of legal authority on which to found those proceedings, by which, he hoped, to place the parish upon a better footing, and the