

The Cathedral Church of Canadian Methodism.



St. James Church, Montreal.

The year just closing has brought to the attention of the Methodist people generally the position and conditions of this the foremost church in, at least, Canadian Methodism, if not in Methodism the world over.

Its history spans the century which is now passing out. In 1802 Rev. Joseph Sawyer, of the New York Conference, came to see "if a minister could be prudently stationed in the city." He found a small "society" of seven members, which had been in existence for some seventeen years. It is supposed that the work had been begun from Quebec, where a British officer by the name of Tuffy had been preaching with success.

The congregation was formally organized by the Rev. Samuel Merwin in 1803. He was followed in the pastorate by Revs. Martin Ruter, and the famous Nathan Bangs. The first church was built in 1808, and stood on St. Sulpice street, in the rear of Notre Dame Cathedral. To Rev. Samuel Coate, who was then pastor, is due the credit for the work thus accomplished. The work was manned by the New York Conference until the close of the war of 1812, when the British Conference took charge and Rev. Richard Williams was the first English missionary on the roll of St. James, 1814.

The second church was built in 1821, the rapid growth of the society making it necessary. The work moved steadily forward and again in 1845 the congregation were forced to enlarge their borders and a third church was built. "Then began," quoting the words of the Montreal Star, from whose pages we have gathered the information contained in this article, "a period of aggressive

religious and philanthropic work with the new church as the centre and inspiration of it all. All denominations found there an open platform and a kindly welcome; and it is not too much to say that St. James became one of the chief engines of religious effort in British North America."

It has been the mother of many churches, all of the principal Methodist Churches of Montreal having been organized and established by the leaders of St. James.

Once more in 1885-6 it was seen that in order to keep in the advance of religious effort, the church must be moved "up town" and the present magnificent edifice was projected and carried through. The corner stone was laid in 1887 and the church dedicated in 1889.

Adverses, which were unlooked for, met the trustees, and it appeared as if the building would be lost to Methodism and Protestantism. An heroic effort has been and is being still made. It was thought that if \$250,000 could be secured the burden would be so relieved. Of this amount \$100,000 was to be raised by the church, \$50,000 by the Montreal Conference and \$100,000 by the church as a whole. In the last report to hand the Church reports \$85,000 raised, while \$20,000 has been received from the Montreal Conference and a like amount from the other Conferences. It will thus be seen that but little more than half the desired amount has been secured. It is to be earnestly hoped that there will be no cessation of the effort until the "Cathedral Church" of Methodism is safe.

Ten thousand of the greatest faults in our neighbors are of less consequence to us than one of the smallest in ourselves.—Archbishop Whately.

Columbian College ...Chronicles.

Columbian College is showing decided signs of progress. Sixteen regular boarding students this term at present, as against seven in the same term last year. More are coming at the New Year, and expectations are favorable toward a full attendance.

The College Literary Society has been organized for the present year with the following officers: President, F. A. Copley; Vice-President, Miss Palmer; Secretary, W. D. Berts; Treasurer, Miss Beehar.

Thursday evening, its weekly meeting was held, when Principal Sipprell gave a very interesting address, outlining the cause and progress of the Anglo-Boer war, the subject being dealt with from an impartial standpoint.

The students have decided to continue the publication of the college journal, "Lux Columbiana."

The patriotic enthusiasm of the students was aroused by hearing that Mr. W. W. Odum, who was in attendance at the college last year, had volunteered for service in the Transvaal, and had gone with his brother to South Africa.

Evening classes in Commercial branches and Chemistry are in progress at the College, and are being well attended. Among the pupils are many of the leading men of the city.

Now arrivals at the College: Mr. D. Draney, Nain Harbor; Mr. Saint, Vancouver; Mr. J. Deveroux, Ladner.

The special services, under the auspices of the Young People of the Methodist Church, held last week, were well attended and a number have been persuaded to lead a new life.