

## TAYLOR CHURCH, MONTREAL.

SKETCH OF THE CONGREGATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE  
NEW CHURCH BUILDING.

The completion and opening of Taylor Church, Montreal, were events of much importance to Presbyterianism in that city, and a brief account of congregation and church will be found interesting to the general reader:

The congregation which has now on its Sunday School roll 375 scholars and on its communion roll 313 members began as a Mission School of twenty-eight scholars in 1862. It was organized as a congregation with thirty-one members July 27th, 1876, by the late Rev. Dr. Taylor and was named after him.

In 1880 the congregation, after having worshipped in nine different places, entered their new house of worship, on Champlain Street.

The Rev. J. J. Casey, B.D., became the first pastor, March 16th, 1882, and continued till June 10th, 1885, when he was removed by death. He was succeeded by the Rev. T. Bennett, December, 1885. The church was enlarged in 1887; but soon seats were not to be had, except as families left for other parts.

In 1889, and none too soon, the congregation took steps toward a new church. Fortunately it secured on its Building Committee, Messrs. Colin McArthur, Chairman; the late J. Murray Smith, Associate-treasurer with Major W. H. Laurie, Messrs. Warden King, Wm. Yuile, David Morrice, W. D. McLaren, Dr. F. W. Kelly and G. H. Archibald.

The site was bought at a cost of \$7,000. At first a stone church with basement Sunday school room to cost about \$15,000 was financed for; but Mr. Wm. Yuile urged a building twice the size, of stone foundation, Scotch fire-brick walls, said to be more durable than stone, with Sunday school rooms above ground on a level with the church and sliding doors between, so that the two rooms could be thrown into one for any large gathering. Mr. David Brown was chosen architect. Tenders were received for the stone church with basement Sunday school, and also for the brick church twice the size, and the latter, which all considered preferable by far, was found to cost less. But \$5,000 more, or \$20,000 in all, was needed before work could be begun. Mr. Wm. Yuile then offered

to share this additional burden with the congregation, and the work was begun.

It was a glad day for the congregation when Mrs. David Morrice, Sept. 23rd, 1893, laid the corner-stone.

Work was discontinued on the building during last winter, and hindered by the carpenters' strike during the summer. But soon after each hindrance the work again went on. Early in the history of the work Dr. Kelly of the High School, in some Normal Bible lessons on Nehemiah helped to rouse the young people to greater exertions.

Messrs. Warden King, Colin McArthur and Wm. Yuile, after having contributed largely themselves, secured with the pastor contributions from others. So it is hoped that there will rest on the new church building, which is finally found to cost \$26,000 and lot worth \$6,000, a debt of only \$13,000. The interest of this for five years is provided for by St. Paul's, Erskine and Crescent street churches, giving each \$150 a year and Mr. Colin McArthur \$200 a year for five years. It is hoped that the congregation will meantime do something to remove the debt, and through growth in more favorable conditions, will at the end of that time be much stronger than at present.

The building is 131 feet by 57. Foundation of limestone, walls of Scotch fire-brick of variegated gray and russet color, and roof of steel frame covered with slate. The tower rises ninety feet, so built as to show how brick can be used to give a handsome appearance. The tower is covered with slate surmounted by an iron wrought finial. The breaks in the wall and graceful arching over the windows take away the monotony common to brick walls.

There are two entrances into the church—one by the tower and the other by the side. Entering into the church, one sees a finely proportioned room sixty-five feet square lit from three sides by twenty-six stained glass windows, and from the school room side by a borrowed light of eight windows. The pulpit is in the corner diagonally opposite to the main entrance through the tower and close to the sliding partition between church and school-room.

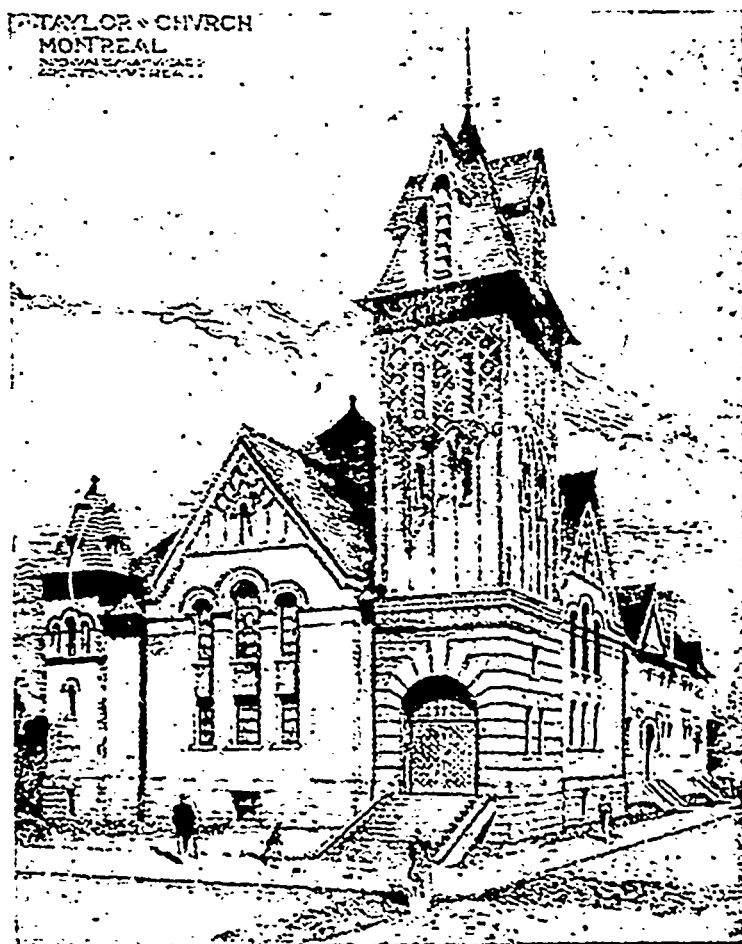
Its platform is a semi-circle raised three feet above the floor with a small desk. Behind, and one step higher, is an arched and rounded recess, or alcove, for the choir, separated from the pulpit by panel work, surmounted by a brass fixture and curtains. The pews are all somewhat circular of a curve with the pulpit and the first only about five feet from it, and is with the next four pews on a level, then the pews slope upward all around. A gallery of horseshoe form and only three pews in width and in length projecting very little beyond the two sides furthest from the corner in which the pulpit is serves, as an ornament as well as furnishing more pew accommodation.

The pews are of hardwood, and made by a firm in Ontario. They furnish 800 sittings. The whole building is lighted by electricity. The acoustic properties of the church are all that could be desired for speakers or singers. The new pedal organ was furnished by the choir of which Mrs. Casey is organist and Major W. H. Laurie leader.

The unique design of the building is the school-room which, in addition to the side windows, has a large skylight in its centre. There are rooms along the side of the ground floor and many more all around the wide gallery, for classes, which for opening and closing exercises are out of and in front of their rooms around the gallery. The Bible Class and infant class rooms have rolling partitions by which at pleasure they are completely shut off from the hall.

The whole building is most economic of space, for should the congregation outgrow its present pew accommodation which can be increased, and meantime, in case of any large gathering the Auditorium of the church and school-room can be thrown into one by raising the two large sliding doors which separate them. The view, which can be had of the two rooms together, and especially of the galleries is very fine. Great credit is due to Mr. Wm. Yuile for his harmonious choice of the colors on the walls and furniture of building rising from a terra cotta on the lowest part of the wall to a light cream color on the ceiling, and indeed for the whole plan of the building which manifests beauty without extravagance and will furnish accommodation and we trust free pews for the Presbyterians of the neighborhood for many years to come.

"The Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad."



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