

Fredericton Cathedral.



It is intended to give, in the CHRONICLE, from time to time, short sketches of the principal Parishes and Churches in the Diocese. An account of the Cathedral is now given, more descriptive than historical; but it is hoped that some one qualified for the task may be induced to furnish, for publication in these columns, a history of the Church in the City of Fredericton, and of the various events which led to the erection of the See.

It is known that Bishop Medley laid the corner stone of his Cathedral Church when but a few months in his Diocese, in the year 1845, and when he had only 32 clergy in his charge. It is known that the selection of plans adapted to the locality and the character of the Diocese required refined taste and good judgment, and must have been attended with much patient thought and study. It is known that very many trials and obstacles were met and overcome by the Bishop's faith, zeal and energy, and that the raising of funds for so elaborate and costly a work, in a poor country, was especially one of great difficulty; but that the principles were always steadily adhered to, of using voluntary offerings only, and of incurring no liability without the means in hand for payment. It would, therefore, be peculiarly interesting and encouraging to all Churchmen if a narrative of the events which attended the building of the Cathedral could be published.

Christ Church Cathedral is one of the most architecturally correct buildings in America. It

is said in "Osgood's Guide to the Maritime Provinces" that it was modelled after Christ Church, Montreal. On the contrary, the former Church preceded the latter by some years; the architect of both being the late Frank Wills. The style is that denominated Second Pointed, or Decorated Gothic. The ground plan is cruciform, with central tower and spire, and having a nave and side aisles, transepts, and chancel. West of the chief doorway, is a porch, or triple arcade, flanked by massive buttresses. The dark brown stone, from the neighbourhood, of which the edifice is chiefly built, is relieved by lighter material, from Westmoreland. All the dressings of the doorways and windows are also of the light Caen stone, executed in England.

The majestic beauty of the building is heightened by the effect of the fine trees in the midst of which it is placed. There is no other structure near with which to contrast it, so that, looked at from some points of view, the walls present an appearance of greater height than they actually possess. Persons familiar even with the grander Churches of Europe have been struck with the graceful proportions of Fredericton Cathedral and its picturesque site.

Differing from all other Anglican Cathedrals in Canada, this Church is under the direct charge of the occupant of the See, who is *ex-officio* the Dean. Other Canadian Diocesans have their chairs placed in certain Parish Churches by permission of their respective vestries, a fact which has sometimes led to unpleasant consequences.

The corner stone of the Cathedral was laid Oct. 18, 1845. The nave was built in 1847; the roof put on in 1848; the transepts and chancel completed in 1849; the tower finished in 1850; the spire erected in 1851, and the interior completed in 1852-3. The extreme length of the building is 159 feet; the breadth across transepts, 70; height of nave and choir roof, 60; height of tower to base of spire, 85; total height to top of cross on the spire, 180 feet.

The consecration, on Aug. 31, 1853, attracted a large assembly of clergy and laity from the other British Provinces and the United States. There were present, Bishop Mountain, of Quebec, sometime Rector of Fredericton, Bishop Strachan, of Toronto, Bishop Southgate, of the American Church, and other venerable men, who have since gone to their rest.

Much interest had been taken in the erection