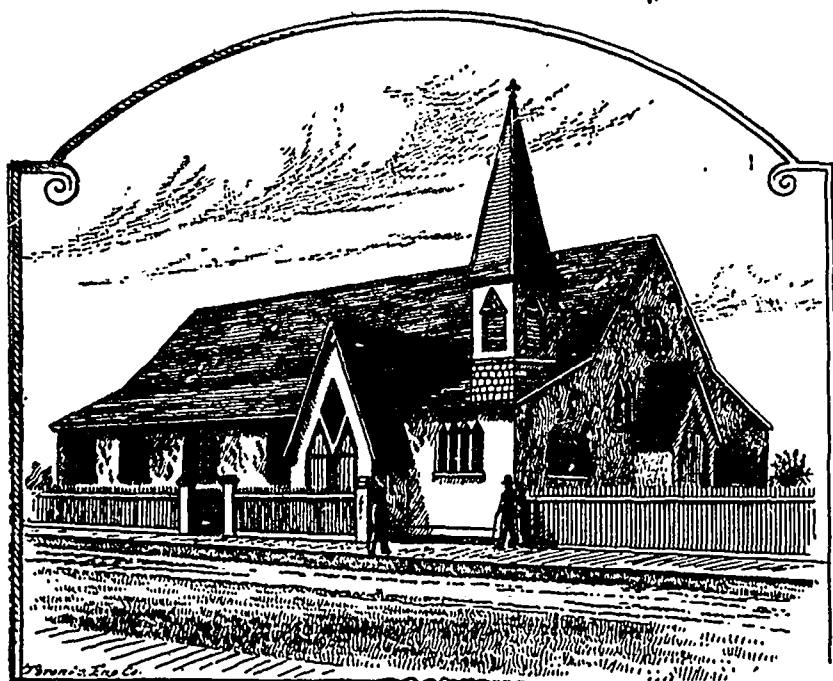




OLD ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

decanal chapter; (5) when Walpole and his successors were doing their best to paralyze church action with their principle, "*Quia non movere*," and to strangle all energy by means of state protection and state patronage. The church was never more entirely "established" than in the Georgian age.

The practical reflections I suggest are these: That the church was, after all, not in a better state than now, but in a worse by far, when there were no party controversies, no long or noisy synods, no series of perpetual meetings, no distracting or ornate services, and when instead of too little establishment, which seems to threaten now in Wales and England, the poor church of the Georgian days had a great deal too much of it altogether.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 85.—CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, TORONTO.

IN early days of Toronto's history, when the town was known as Little York, a large section of land lying to the southwest was held as Ordnance reserve, afterwards commonly known as the Garrison Common. The line that defined the boundary of this reserve was a portion of the circumference of a great circle a thousand yards distant from its centre, which was the Old Fort. In 1834, a portion of this reserve was laid out in building lots, and offered for sale. On an old plan issued

by the government in that year, in connection with the proposed sale, we see what is now Clarence Square designated as the proposed residence of the governor, and directly opposite to it, at the end of Wellington Place, a site marked out for a military church in close proximity to the military burial ground, where now repose the remains of so many members of military families and of prominent Canadian citizens. One who, in those old days, had seen and known the plan and the place would hardly recognize it now. Yet, as he passed up Portland street, at the corner of Stewart

street, he might see a stone marked with the broad arrow and the letters B.O., '36. This would at once remind him of its relation to the government and Board of Ordnance, perhaps suggest to him that this was the corner of the square containing the military burial ground; and, as he raised his eyes, and saw the quaint, but solid and churchly building, he might be disposed to ask if this were the military church which was in the minds of the authorities in 1834. The answer would be that the church is attended by the Anglican members of the Canadian Regiment of Infantry; but that it is the parish church of St. John the Evangelist, and that immediately to the west of it still stands the old church which, for many years, served as the garrison chapel, and which was occupied until the end of April of this year, when it was abandoned by the congregation in favor of the new and more handsome and commodious edifice at the corner of the square, in the south transept of which you may see a reminder of the church's connection with the military, in the form of a brass tablet bearing this inscription: "In memory of Private Arthur J. Watson, killed in action at Fish Creek, N.W.T., 24th April, 1885; and Bugler Herbert Fculkes, killed in action at Cut Knife, N.W.T., 2nd May, 1885." This tablet is placed here by their comrades, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of "C" Company, Infantry School corps.

In the days immediately preceding the erection of old St. John's there were only five Anglican churches in the city, St. George's being the most westerly of them. That church