

HISTORICAL NOTES.

This church was organized on the 23rd November, 1834, and consisted of seventeen members, nearly all having previously been connected with the Congregational denomination in England. At the close of December the membership was twenty-six.

The present is the fifth pastoral settlement, and the office has been successively filled as follows :—namely, the Rev. Wm. Merrefield, who came from Brampton, in Cumberland, England, under whom the church was organized, resigned on September 19th, 1836. The Rev. John Roaf, of Wolverhampton, England, accepted the pastorate on March 29th, 1838, which he sustained for more than seventeen years, resigning June 25th, 1855. He was succeeded on the 29th May, 1856, by the Rev Thomas Scales Ellerby, formerly pastor of the British and American Congregational Church at St. Petersburg, Russia, who closed his pastorate of about ten years, on March 28th, 1866. On the 30th of May, 1866, the Rev. John G. Manly, of Dublin, Ireland, assumed the office which he filled for about four years and a half, resigning December 1st, 1870, and was succeeded on the 1st of June, 1871, by the Rev. Samuel N. Jackson, M.D., of Montreal, the present pastor.

The deacons' office, during the history of the church to the present time, has been filled by twenty-nine officers, thirteen of whom are deceased, four sustain the same office in a sister church, and seven still retain their official relationship. The first deacons were Robert Wightman, Robert Rowell, and James Wickson, and were elected February the 12th, 1835.

The first public services of the church were held November 23rd, 1834, in the Masonic Hall, which then stood on Colborne Street. In July, 1837, the church removed to the then vacant Methodist chapel, in George Street. In this place they continued to meet for religious purposes until January, 1840, when they removed to their new church, on the corner of Adelaide and Bay Streets, which was destroyed by fire on the 26th February, 1855. For over a year and a half the Sunday services were held in St. Lawrence Hall, the use of which was granted