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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 116.—ST. LUKE'S CATHEDRAL, HALIFAX,
NOVA SCOTIA.

IN the year 1844 the necessity of building a Chapel of Ease in the southern part of the city of Halifax, to accommodate those members of the parish church (St. Paul's) who were living in that quarter, began to be felt, and at a meeting held on April 8th of that year it was resolved to erect one on some eligible site which might be obtained "in the old burying ground." As, however, this old burying ground was used by Presbyterians and others, objections were urged against a church edifice being erected upon it. The project was, therefore, abandoned.

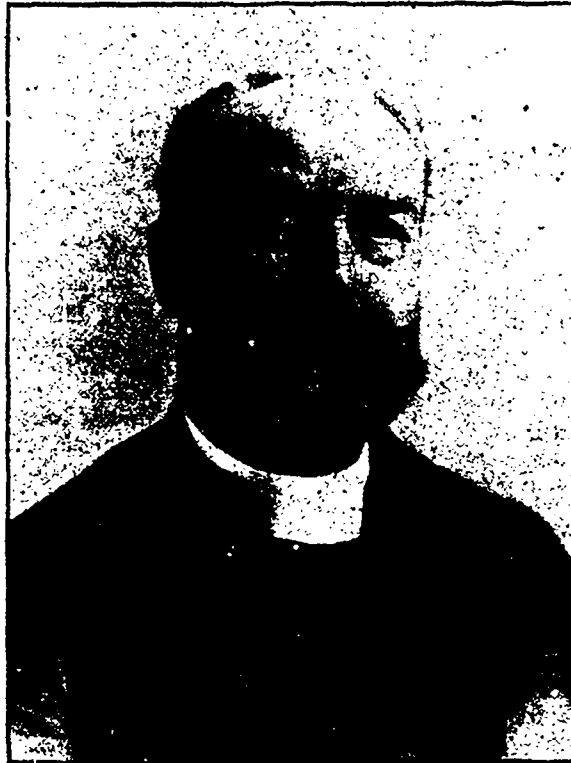
At this time the Rev. Wm. Cogswell was curate of St. Paul's Church, and his father, the Hon. Henry H. Cogswell, apparently on his own responsibility commenced the erection of a church on the site where St. Luke's now stands, but the undertaking came to a standstill, probably owing to the illness of Rev. Mr. Cogswell, who was obliged to retire from his work. In September, 1846, Rev. Wm.

Bullock, the rector of Digby, N.S., was appointed curate or assistant minister of St. Paul's, and on the third of the following April a public meeting was called with a view to completing, if possible, the erection of the Chapel of Ease which had been already commenced. At this meeting it was resolved to obtain possession of the lot on which the par-

tially constructed building stood, and to raise on it the sum of £2,500 by means of a mortgage, the said mortgage to be paid off or reduced to the lowest possible amount by the proceeds of "sales of the good will of pews" for a limited number of years. The money required was obtained in the following September from the Hon. Mr. Cogswell on the terms mentioned, the result being that the "Chapel of Ease" was completed and opened for divine service on the 4th of May, 1848, and was placed in charge of Rev. Wm. Bullock, with a clearly defined

district of the city attached to it. In the following April (1849) the debt on the building was reported £3,000. At that time also the old organ of St. Paul's Church was placed within it.

In 1850 a motion was set on foot to separate the new district from the parent church, and so form it into a new parish; but this was negated "by a vote of 40 to 20." In April, 1851, the Hon. M. B. Almon presented the chapel with a bell; but the affairs of the newly-built edifice were in a bad state. Its heavy debt seemed greater than it could bear, for in May, 1851, it was offered for sale by public auction, the debt "and any other debts which may be due by the



REV. E. P. CRAWFORD, M.A.,
Fifth Rector of St. Luke's, Halifax, N.S.

parish," i.e., St. Paul's, to be paid from the proceeds of the sale. This deplorable step, however, was not taken; for what reason does not appear. Probably a sufficient amount could not be raised to pay the debt, or it may be that the disgrace of such a retrograde policy aroused the spirits of the supine and induced them to put their hands in their pockets and pay the debt.