



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, OWEN SOUND, DIOCESE OF HURON.

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 23—ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, OWEN SOUND, DIOCESE OF HURON.

OWEN SOUND is the county town of Grey in the Province of Ontario. It stands alone, a town situated a long distance from any other. It can boast of no antiquity. Fifty years ago its site was but a swamp, "lit by the million lamps of the glow worm by night, and vocal always with the croaking of myriads of frogs." The river Sydenham, winding its solitary way through a dense forest, at length found egress to the great waters of the Georgian Bay at "The Sound," from which the town is named. Had we salt water in this country, Owen Sound, "the Liverpool of the North," would be called a seaport town. The tangled forest has given place to a well proportioned town, into whose harbor glide giant steamers laden with grain and other products of the far north and west, shipping their freight on railways to be carried further on their way. Charles Rankin, a pioneer land surveyor, laid out a portion of this dreary spot as a

town in 1837. In 1841 a few settlers began to arrive and by degrees the town, which was first called Sydenham, after the nobleman of that name who was Governor-General of Canada, began to assume important proportions. It was visited in 1844 by Bishop Strachan, the pioneer bishop of Upper Canada, but received very little attention in spiritual affairs till the arrival of a young man fresh from Ireland who, on being ordained by Bishop Strachan in 1849, was appointed travelling missionary for the two enormous counties of Grey and Bruce, then largely uninhabited, with headquarters at Owen Sound. And there the Rev. A. H. R. Mulholland, for that was his name, has been ever since. In these days of frequent changes, when clergymen find their way from place to place with surprising rapidity, it is a pleasing contrast to find a parish which since 1849 has known but one Incumbent. Services were first held in a log building, 18 x 20 feet in size, owned by a Mr.

Hinchcliff. In this humble structure Lord Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, attended divine service when on a visit to Owen Sound. As time wore on Mr. Mulholland became Rector and Rural Dean. A larger church was erected in 1851, and enlarged in 1861 by the addition of a wing, and for nearly twenty years this was found sufficient for the wants of the congregation, but in 1880 the foundation stone of an entirely new church was laid. This church was completed and opened for divine service in August, 1881,—the epochs of the church's history being thus marked by 1851, 1861 and 1881, and as shown in the accompanying engraving, is a handsome, gothic structure of the Elizabethan period. It was erected at a cost of \$15,000, exclusive of the site, and has a spire 125 feet high. The interior of the church is furnished with every comfort and necessity for the promotion of divine worship, including a handsome pipe organ. A chime of bells we believe is to be added soon.

During all this work Mr. Mulholland was the guiding hand. His faithful services were acknowledged in 1879 by the Bishop of Huron conferring upon him the title of Canon, and more re-