

THE CHAMBERED SAULTS.

OLIVER WENDEL HOLMES. This is the ship of pearl, which poets feign, The unshaded main,— The venturous bark that flings On the sweet summer winds its purple wings...

Year after year beheld the silent toil That spread his hazy incense o'er the floor, And every chambered cell Where his dim, dreaming light was wont to dwell...

HISTORY OF THE HANTSPORT BAPTIST CHURCH.

Published by Request of the N. S. Central Association.

This church was organized at Falmouth, in the county of Hants, on the 13th day of January, 1830, in a house used for public worship, and known as the Union Meeting House, situated at Mt. Vernon, and afterward owned and occupied by the Wesleyan Methodists.

On April 17th, 1830, at a meeting of the church it was, by unanimous vote, decided that a council be called for the purpose of setting apart to the gospel ministry Robert Dickie. Consequently a council convened from the churches at Windsor, Horton, Cornwallis, New York and Chester on the 13th of May following, when Robert Dickie was duly ordained to the work of the ministry; and although there is no definite record of the fact, there is sufficient evidence on the minutes of the church to conclude that he became its pastor, and remained with them as such until 1834.

In the year 1834, David Puleifer, John Porter and Harris Rind were appointed deacons, and Deacon N. I. Harris clerk. During Mr. Burton's pastorate the church was found too small to accommodate the congregation, and an addition was made sufficient to seat about one hundred persons. During the last year of the pastor's charge he was frequently confined to his home by sickness, and substitutes had to be secured from other places.

On the 1st day of Aug., 1837, Rev. J. E. Balcom accepted a call and continued as pastor until August 7th, 1839. The church never having previously owned a parsonage concluded to buy one, and in a short time a suitable one was secured. In the spring of 1839, after repairs had been made on the building, the pastor moved upon the property now owned by the church at a cost of \$1,575, and, through the energy and perseverance of the pastor, free from debt. During the labors of Bro. Balcom the building at Brooklyn had also received repairs to the amount of \$460, without incurring a debt.

In 1870 Rev. Joseph Murray became pastor of the church, and during his labors many additions were made to the numbers—there now being 381 members. Wm. West was appointed clerk during this pastorate, but remained in office only a short time. Brother C. I. Margeson was appointed in his stead,

and is clerk of the church at the present time.

Although efforts were frequently made to secure a pastor, yet the church remained without one until May, 1875.

During the years intervening between 1834 and 1875 the church had three places of public worship—at Falmouth, Hantsport and Brooklyn; the first and last named being branches of the Falmouth church.

On May 12th, 1843, eighteen members of the church residing at Falmouth, and which constituted a branch at that place, asked for and obtained letters of dismission for the purpose of organizing a separate church there.

In the same year Levi Lockhart, a member of the church, was granted a license to preach within the limits of the church. William Davidson and Edward Davison were also appointed deacons.

On May 12th, Benjamin Vaughan was engaged as pastor of the church at a salary of £60, and remained until the fall of 1849. During the pastorate of Elder Vaughan the church largely increased in membership.

On March 15th, 1847, Deacon William Davison was appointed clerk; and on March 24th, 1849, Andrew Lockhart and Nathan Harris were appointed deacons, and ordained to that office.

From 1849 to 1852 the church was without a regular pastor. These years seem some of the darkest in the history of the church; yet the public services were maintained and the prayer and conference meetings kept up, but there lacked much spiritual life. During the three years fifteen were added to the church by baptism.

In June of 1852 the Central Association met with the church. In October of that year P. A. Shields, a student from Acadia College, was engaged to preach; and on March 12th, 1853, a council being called for the purpose, he was ordained to the gospel ministry, and became pastor of the church from date of ordination to January 10th, 1851. There is no record, it having been either lost or destroyed, therefore the writer has to depend upon the memory of older church members for information, which is very limited. It is supposed to be during these years that the name of the church was changed to the Hantsport Baptist Church. How long P. A. Shields remained pastor is not definitely known, but probably not more than three years.

Rev. Wm. Burton was the next pastor, but the exact date of his coming is not established, but thought to be in the year 1853. During his pastorate the church was greatly revived, and many were added to its numbers. The membership now was 251. The pastor had the services of A. Langille, a student from Acadia College, and also of Davenport Cox of —, who was a member of the church and had been licensed to preach. These brethren labored with much acceptance and were valuable assistants to the pastor, who closed his ministry with this church in 1861.

From October, 1861, until October, 1862, the church was again without a pastor, and was supplied from Acadia College. In October, 1862, Rev. J. H. P. Shay accepted a call, but in consequence of impaired health (the field being large) was obliged in April, 1863, to resign, which left the church again without a pastor.

In October, 1863, Rev. Wm. Burton was again called, which call he accepted, and on March 8th, 1864, resumed the pastorate. His second, as well as his first labors in this portion of God's vineyard, were marked with much success. He was a man of very peculiar talents, not having had the advantages of early education. He was not fully qualified to exhibit the superiority of his natural abilities, yet his great fund of knowledge in the Scriptures, his practical application of the same, his sound, deep and thorough theological training left its impress upon the church which is felt to this day. He had a very benevolent disposition, and was exceedingly generous to the poor; so much so that he was often the subject of imposition, and at times it was difficult for the church to supply his wants and his many benevolent schemes.

In the year 1866 David Puleifer, John Porter and Harris Rind were re-appointed deacons, and Deacon N. I. Harris clerk. During Mr. Burton's pastorate the church was found too small to accommodate the congregation, and an addition was made sufficient to seat about one hundred persons. During the last year of the pastor's charge he was frequently confined to his home by sickness, and substitutes had to be secured from other places.

At this time there was a steady increase of membership to the church. Rev. D. M. Weldon (then pastor of the Windsor Baptist Church) and Rev. E. O. Reed from the Gasperaux church, frequently occupied the pulpit and addressed the congregation.

A number that are now members received the rite of baptism from the hands of these brethren. Bro. Burton continued to be pastor until April 26th, 1867, when he departed this life, beloved by his church and mourned by the community generally, who regarded him as a faithful pastor and devoted friend.

From the death of Rev. Wm. Burton until the August of that year the pulpit was supplied by Brothers Fitz, Manning and others from Acadia College.

On the 1st day of Aug., 1867, Rev. J. E. Balcom accepted a call and continued as pastor until August 7th, 1870. The church never having previously owned a parsonage concluded to buy one, and in a short time a suitable one was secured. In the spring of 1869, after repairs had been made on the building, the pastor moved upon the property now owned by the church at a cost of \$1,575, and, through the energy and perseverance of the pastor, free from debt. During the labors of Bro. Balcom the building at Brooklyn had also received repairs to the amount of \$460, without incurring a debt.

and is clerk of the church at the present time. Although efforts were frequently made to secure a pastor, yet the church remained without one until May, 1875. During the interval the pulpit was principally occupied by the Rev. R. E. Phillips, who resided at that time in Hantsport.

In May of the same year Rev. J. C. Bleakney accepted a unanimous call to the church, and remained its pastor until 1878. During the three years of his labors as pastor the church largely increased in membership—151 being added by baptism and 157 by profession of faith. A vestry was also added to the church building at a cost of \$1200. In 1876 the Central Association met with the church, and during its session a council was called at the Brooklyn branch for the purpose of organizing a separate church there. Letters of dismission were granted to 102 members, who organized the church known as the Brooklyn Baptist Church. Leave of absence was granted the pastor in the year 1877 for three months to enable him to visit his family. In his absence the pulpit was filled by Rev. A. J. Stevens, who labored with good acceptance among the people. Rev. J. C. Bleakney's labors with the church terminated May 1st, 1878.

On May 1st, 1878, E. W. Whitman became its pastor. During his labors there was no particular event in the history of the church to record. Rufus Comstock and Israel Trask were appointed deacons. The only parsonage, known as Acadia College, which the branches had been constituted churches and supplied themselves, had been sold and a new one purchased more convenient to the meeting-house. It was also found that the annual contributions to the minister's salary had been largely increased, and was much in excess of any preceding year—amounting in all to about \$1000 per year.

From the close of Rev. E. W. Whitman's pastorate, and November 25th of the present year, the pulpit was supplied frequently by Prof. Keirstead, of Acadia College. On the above date Rev. W. J. Swaffield accepted a call from the church and became its pastor. This was a short and unfruitful pastorate of eighteen months only. Notwithstanding the fact that the church had adopted a system of liberally contributing toward a pastor's salary, it immediately fell off, and it was extremely difficult to raise \$600 as a salary. Consequently the pastor became dissatisfied and the church officers discouraged.

When the engagement of Rev. W. J. Swaffield was dissolved in the middle of the year, the church decided, being desirous to raise a salary, to continue until December, 1884, when the church, realizing fully the needs of a regular pastor, extended a call to the Rev. J. McLean, which was accepted, and he immediately entered upon his duties. The church officers called upon him to resign, but he refused, and on the second time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the third time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the fourth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the fifth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the sixth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the seventh time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the eighth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the ninth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the tenth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the eleventh time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the twelfth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the thirteenth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the fourteenth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and on the fifteenth time he was called to resign, he again refused, and 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