

1913

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Centennial

THOROLD PARISH

1813-1913

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Presented by J. M. Thompson.

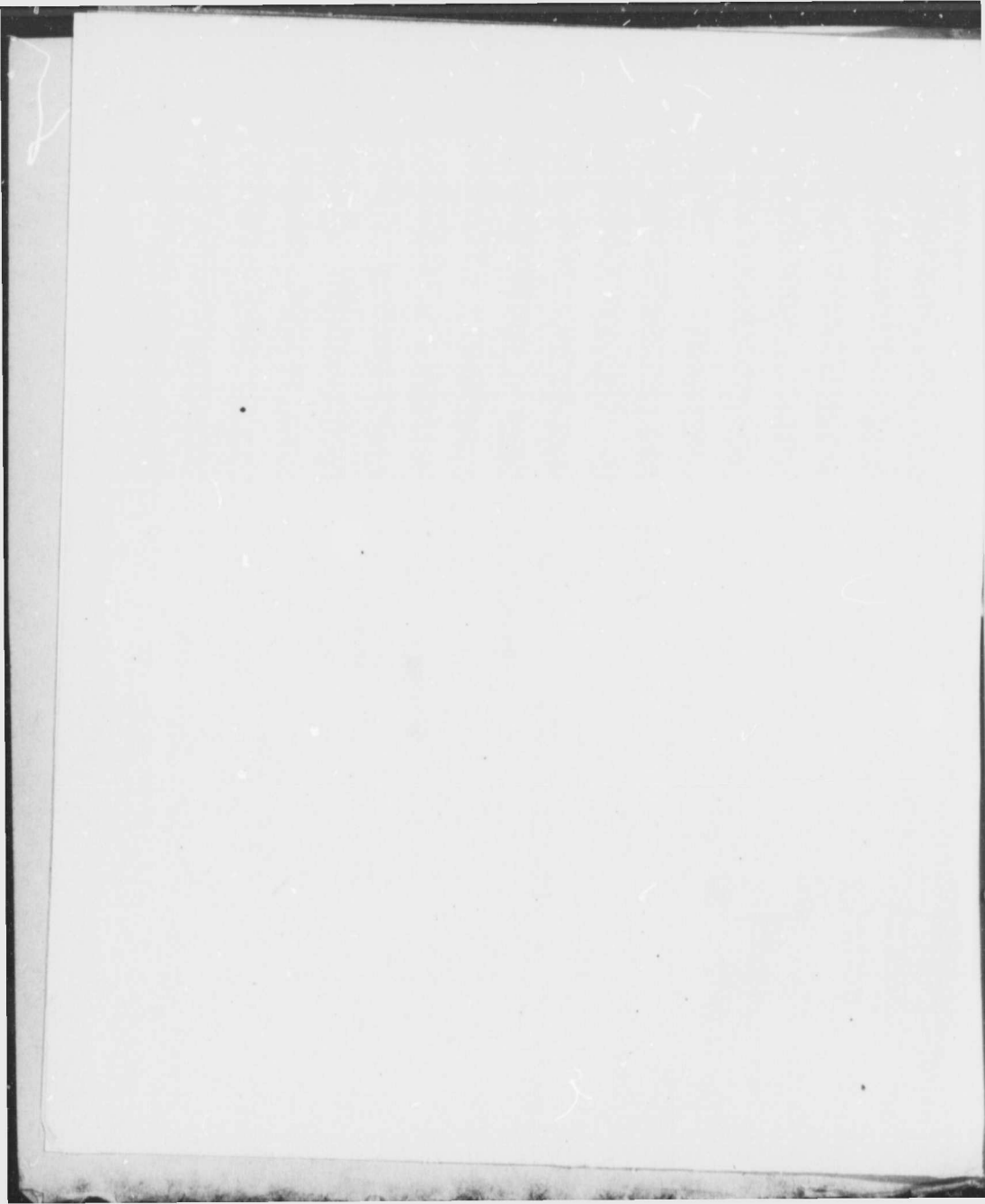
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J. G.

20 Oct., 1933.



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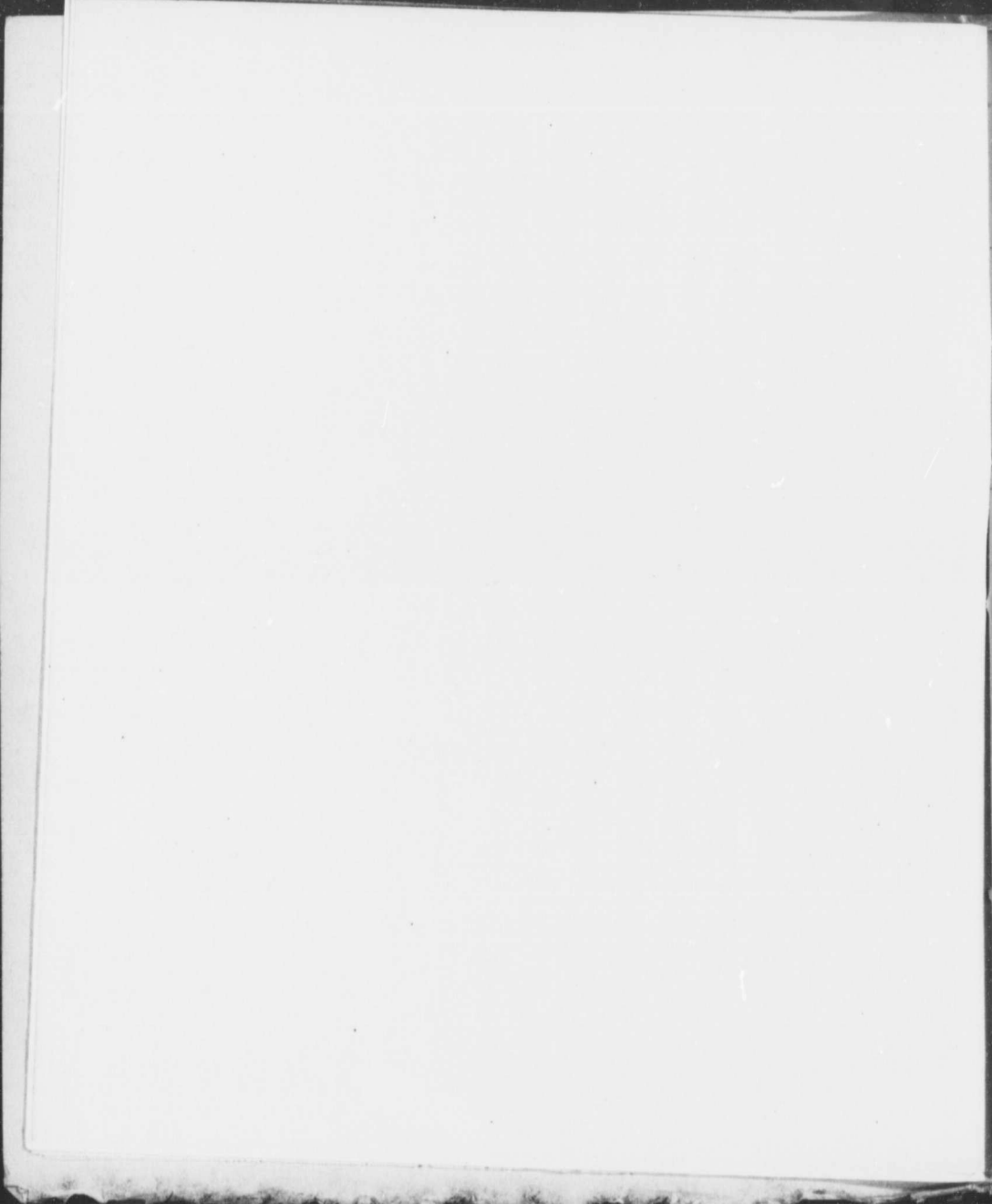




S. John's Church

Thorold, Ontario

ERECTED - A.D. 1853



History of Thorold Parish



IN the year A. D. 1813 Thorold became a part of the Parish of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Services were first taken by the Reverend Robert Addison in the old German Meeting-house.

In the year 1825 Thorold was joined to Chippawa Parish, and the Reverend William Leeming was Priest in charge.

In 1832 a stone Church named S. Peter's was erected near the old Meeting-house, and Thorold then became part of the Parish of S. George's, St. Catharines.

In 1836 Sir John Colborne made Thorold

Parish a Rectory, and S. Peter's Church was consecrated by Bishop Mountain of Quebec Diocese.

The first time that the Churchwardens kept systematic accounts was in the year 1838, when Mr. George Keefer was warden.

Thorold had its first resident Priest in 1840, when the Reverend Thomas Brock Fuller was appointed. Just one year before Dr. Fuller's appointment to Thorold, Upper Canada had been set apart as the Diocese of Toronto, and Dr. Strachan was consecrated as its first Bishop.

The first Missionary meeting took place on August 20th, 1842. On that evening a branch of the Church Missionary Society was formed. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. G. M. Armstrong of Louth, the Rev. A. M. Atkinson of St. Catharines, the Rev. Wm. Leeming of Chippawa, the Rev. Thos. Creen of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Rev. J. G. Geddes of Hamilton, the Rev. Arthur Palmer of Guelph, and the Rev. John Armstrong of Buenos Ayres. In the same year Thorold contributed £28.2.6 for Missionary purposes.

In 1853 the Cornerstone of S. John's Church



The Right Reverend Thomas Brock Fuller

FIRST RECTOR S. JOHN'S CHURCH 1840-1861

FIRST BISHOP OF NIAGARA



was laid, the congregation contributing the sum of £767 towards its cost. Three years later the Church was completed.

There was a deficit of £2034. 1. 2, and to meet this amount the pews were offered for sale. Forty persons faithfully promised to purchase seats—but unfortunately very, very few fulfilled their obligations, and in 1862 the debt, with interest added, amounted to £2305. 5. 2.

When Dr. Fuller was removed from Thorold to S. George's Church, Toronto, he freely forgave the congregation this large debt.

In 1875 the Synod of Niagara was formed, and Dr. Fuller was elected as first Bishop.

Thorold's second resident clergyman was the Rev. T. B. Read, but his incumbency lasted only from 1862 to 1865.

Rev. T. T. Robarts entered upon his duties as Rector in 1865, when one of the earliest Harvest Festivals in Canada was held at S. Peter's Church, the Preacher being the Rev. Provost Whittaker of Trinity University, Toronto. Another important

occurrence in Mr. Robarts' ministry was the complete surrender of the ownership of the pews by the few who were the original purchasers.

In 1879 the late Bishop Thorold of Winchester Diocese, in England, came to visit the Parish called after his family, and preached in S. John's Church.

In 1880 the Rev. W. E. Grahame was appointed Rector.

In 1883 a pipe-organ was placed in the Church.

In 1886 the Rev. P. L. Spencer was appointed Rector.

In 1890 the Church was renovated throughout ; a brass Altar-rail, the gift of the members of the choir, and a brass Lectern, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Fry, were presented to the Church.

In 1894 the bell, which had been recast, was again hung in the tower.

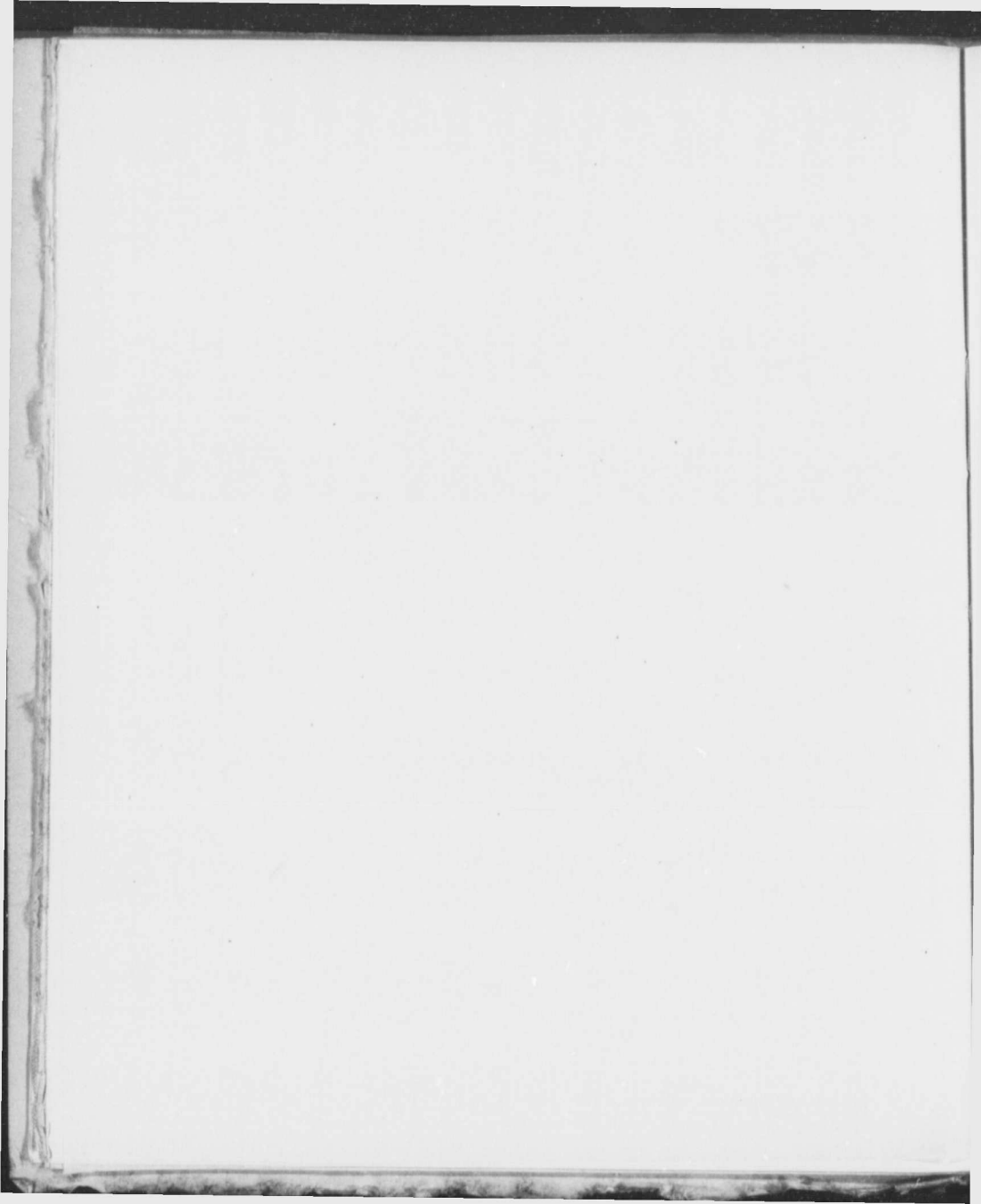
In 1899 the present incumbent, Rev. F. C. Piper, received the appointment as Rector.

In 1901 the tower and spire were strengthened, and a cross placed on the top of the spire.

In 1902 an Oak Altar was erected to the

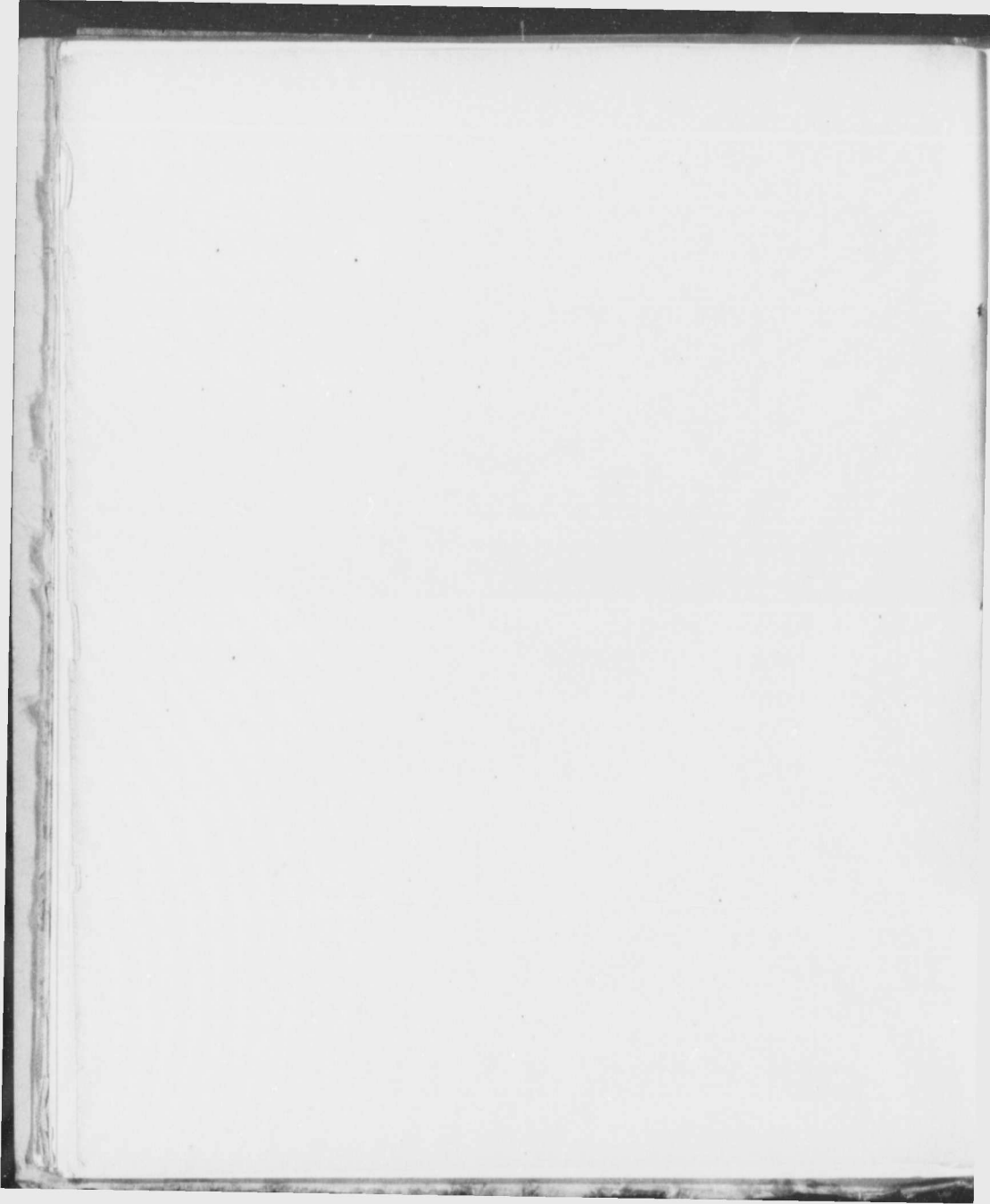


German Meeting House



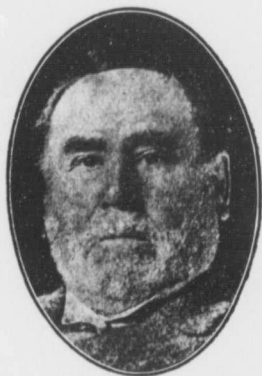


S. Peter's Church

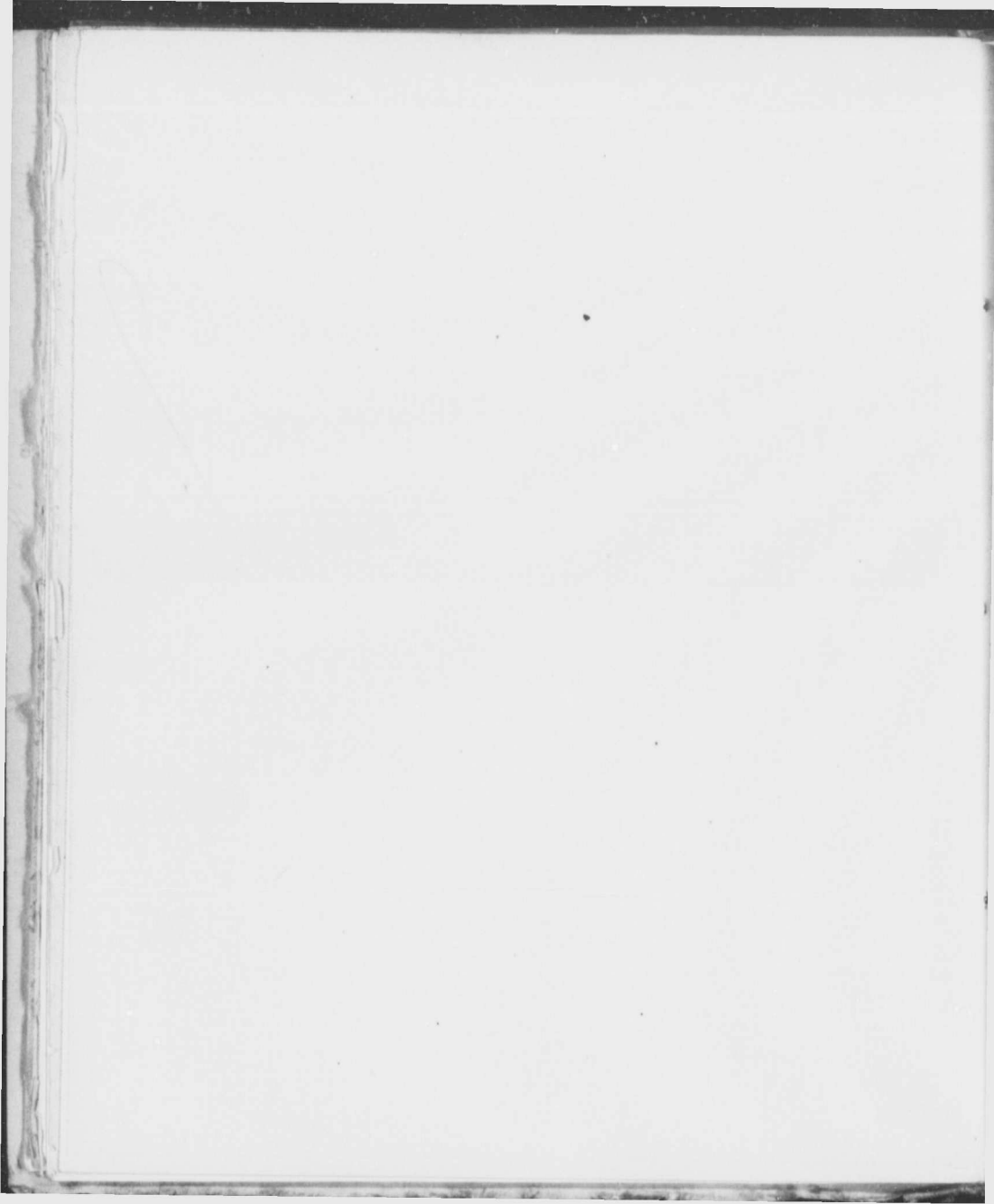


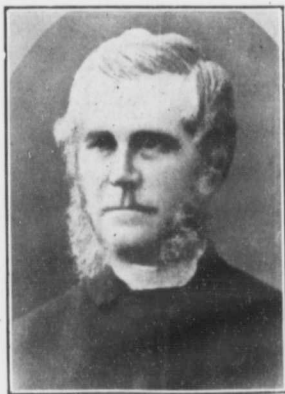


MR. GEORGE KEEFER
CHURCH WARDEN



MR. JOHN McDONAGH
CHURCH WARDEN

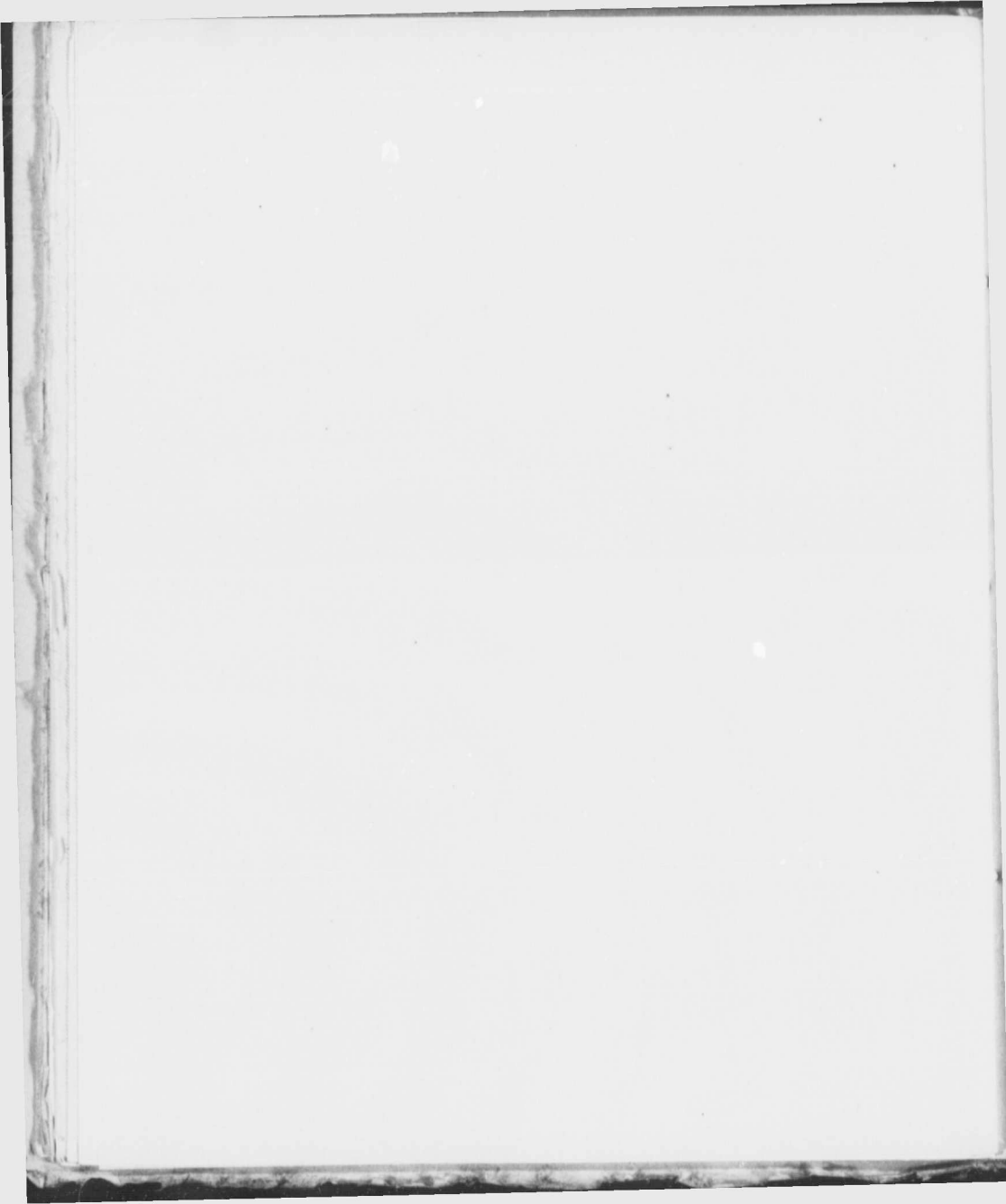




REV. DR. READ
1862-1865



REV. CANON ROBERTS
1865-1880



memory of Mr. F. T. Walton, a former Churchwarden.

In 1904 the Chancel window was placed in position to the memory of the first Rector of the Parish. This was a loving gift from Mr. John McDonagh, a staunch friend of Dr. Fuller's, and a former warden of the Church.

In 1905 Mr. John McDonagh entered Paradise, and bequeathed \$500.00 to S. John's Church. Also in the same year the Church Hall was enlarged and rebuilt. A Memorial window was erected to the memory of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

In 1910 the King Edward Memorial was erected. This is the first Memorial in the British Empire erected to the sacred memory of "Edward the Peacemaker." The memorial consists of a new Organ Chamber and Vestry. The first sod was turned by Mrs. John McDonagh, and the cornerstone laid by the Grand Master in the presence of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Canada and the faithful of Thorold. Both King George and

Queen Alexandra have sent letters of appreciation and good wishes. In this year the Church was decorated, oil paintings placed on the walls, choir stalls and new seats erected.

In 1911 a handsome brass pulpit was placed in the Church to the memory of Mr. John McDonagh—also a thank-offering to Almighty God for a peaceiul and happy married life, was presented in the form of a beautiful electrolier.

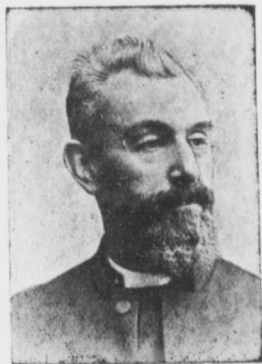
In this year Mrs. Anna Kerrigan entered Paradise, and left \$400,00 to S. John's Church. This amount was placed toward the fund for new choir rooms.

An electric standard was placed at the west entrance of the Church as a thank-offering by one of the faithful members.

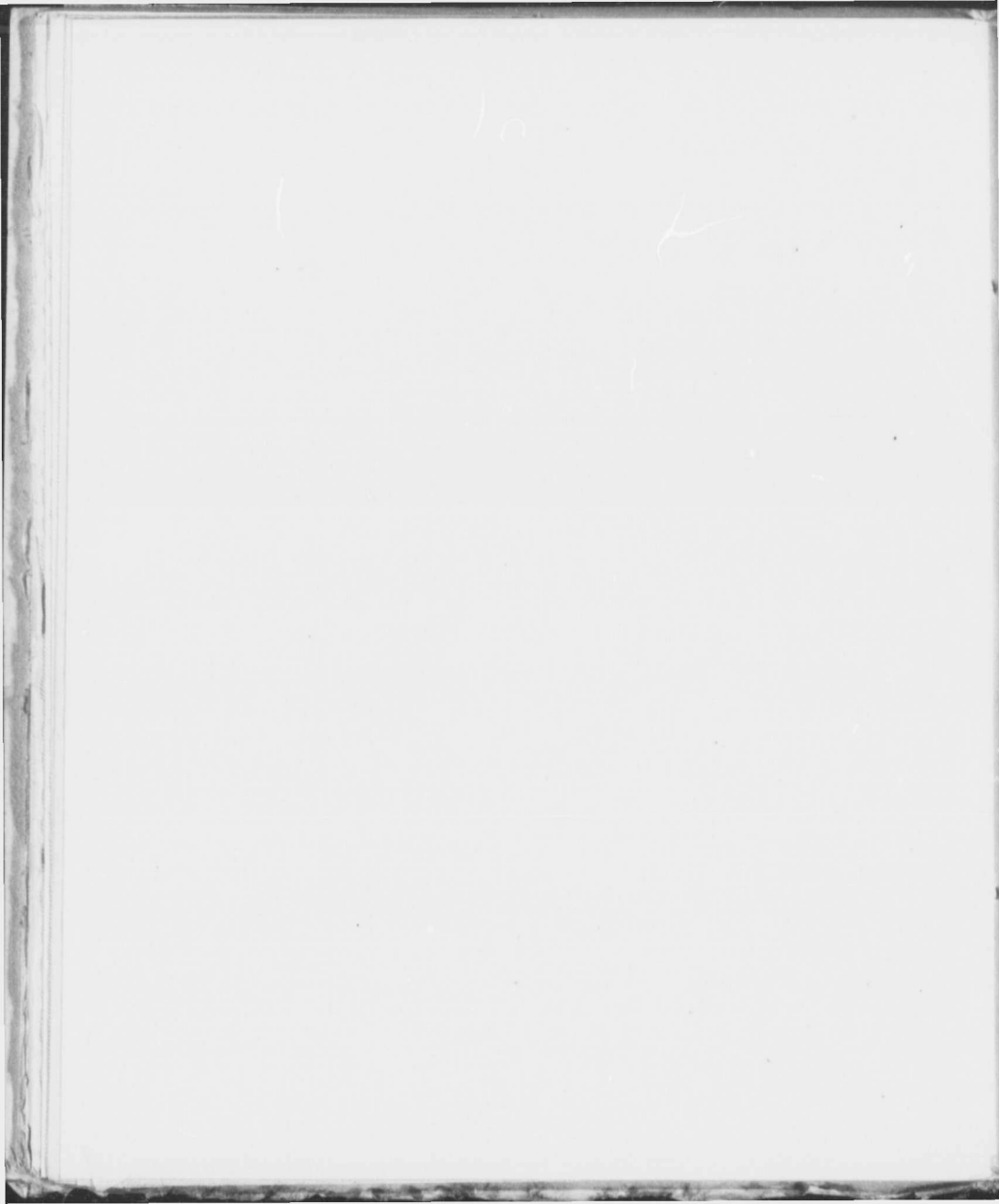
In 1912 a basement was put under the whole Nave of the Church to accommodate the choir, and an electric standard placed at the south entrance. In the Centennial year, 1913, the steps leading to the choir rooms were completed, and heavy brass rails



REV. W. E. GRAHAME
1880-1887



REV. CANON SPENCER
1887-1899



attached. These were a gift from one who always has the Church at heart.

A chime of ten bells from the celebrated Bell Foundry of Coventry, England, was presented by members of the Keefer family in loving memory of children of the late Mr. George Keefer. These bells will prove invaluable. A memorial window was erected to the memory of Mr. George Keefer, and one to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Calcott, another to the memory of Mr. William Winslow—these were all faithful communicants of S. John's Church.

Two more windows were erected by the Rector in memory of an uncle and aunt who lived in Hamilton.

The faithful departed who are remembered by memorials in S. John's church are: Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward, The Right Rev. Thomas Brock Fuller, Mr. George Keefer, Mr. Keefer's children, Mr. F. T. Walton, Mrs. Isaac Usher, Mr. John McDonagh, Mr. and Mrs. George Calcott,

Mr. Wm. Winslow, Mr. C. E. Morgan, Mrs. G. E. Heming.

The Bible still used in the Church was the gift of Mrs. George Keefer.

The following notable Preachers have occupied the pulpit in Thorold Parish :

Bishop Mountain of Quebec, Bishop Thorold of Winchester, England, Bishops Strachan, Bethune, Sweatman and Sweeney of Toronto, Bishop Sullivan of Algoma, Bishop Anson of Qu Appelle, Bishop Mills of Ontario, Bishop Garland of Philadelphia, Provosts Whittaker and Macklem of Trinity University, Toronto, and Bishops Fuller, Hamilton, Du Moulin and Clark of Niagara.

It will be noticed that during the one hundred years of the Parish only two bequests have been made to the Church. When we are making our wills, we should surely remember our God and His Holy Church.



REV. CANON PIPER
1899



MR. J. R. DINWOODIE



MR. J. CHALLIS JONES

PRESENT RECTOR
AND
CHURCH-WARDENS

THE THOROLD POST PRINTERS