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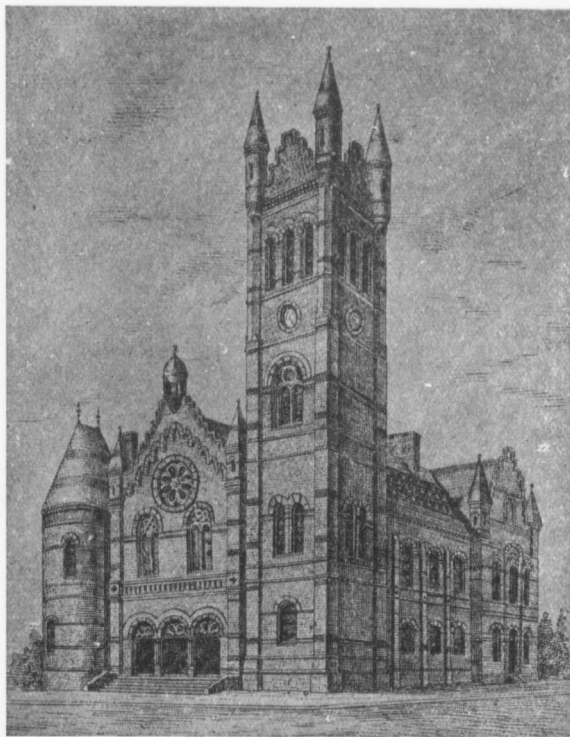
To Commemorate
The Fiftieth
Anniversary



St. Andrew's Church
Victoria, B. C.

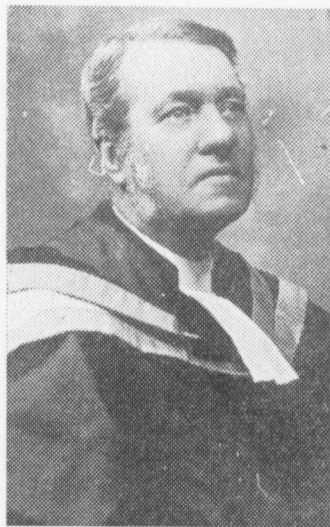
1866 ♦ 1916






ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NEW BUILDING
OPENED 1890

12 n front. illus. v. 18 cm



REV. THOMAS SOMERVILLE, M.A., D.D.
1866-1870

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
VICTORIA, B. C.

N the evening of Wednesday, September 5th, 1866, a number of Presbyterians gathered in the Mechanics' Institute, Yates Street, bent on serious business. They called Mr. D. M. Lang to the chair, and Mr. Thos. Russell to act as Secretary. They then proceeded in orderly manner, by discussion and resolution, to found a Presbyterian congregation under the auspices and in connection with the Church of Scotland, and under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Somerville, M.A. Five days later the infant was given the name of Scotland's patron saint, and given a temporary home in a hall on Broughton Street, which was afterwards purchased, long used for Sabbath School and other congregational purposes, leased for a school room, afterwards sold, turned into a carpenter shop, and finally torn down to make room for the Chungranes Block in 1905.

The erection of a suitable building was, from the outset, regarded as a necessity. Aided by the splendid liberality of the Church of Scotland, in 1868 the congregation purchased the lot on the northeast corner of Gordon and Courtney Streets and thereupon erected a church, which was the pride of many hearts, and which, even in a dismantled state, retains some of the lines of its original beauty and ecclesiastical dignity. The corner stone was laid with Masonic honors on August 28th, 1868, and on the 4th of April, 1869, the building was opened and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God.

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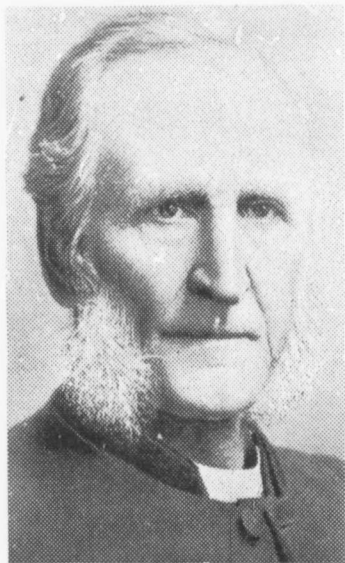
The Rev. Dr. Lindsay, of Portland, Oregon, preached the opening sermon, and the Rev. Mr. Aitken, who was then supplying the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, preached in the afternoon.

The first kirk session was elected in July of that year, and consisted of James Bissett, Robert Wallace, Wm. Gibson and Alexander Munro.

The necessity of supplying the outlying sections of the colony with the ordinances of religion impelled the new session to petition the home church to send out other ministers to co-operate with Mr. Somerville; and in 1870 the Rev. Simon McGregor, of West Branch, Nova Scotia, arrived to take part in the work of the mission under appointment of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. In the same year Mr. Somerville returned to Scotland, where, as parish minister, first in Kirkintilloch and later in Blackfriars, Glasgow, he wielded a great influence until his death, which occurred only two years ago. It gave peculiar pleasure to many old friends in St. Andrew's when one of our Canadian colleges, thirteen years ago, recognized his worth by conferring on him the honorary degree of D.D.

Again the Church of Scotland was left with but one minister to represent her in British Columbia. For eleven years Mr. McGregor wrought with great faithfulness and zeal, and so won for himself a large place in the affections of the congregation and the confidence of the community.

His written appeals for assistance having failed to impress the church at home with the needs and claims of the Province, in 1875 Mr. McGregor paid a personal visit to Scotland to endeavor by the living voice and personal contact to gain those reinforcements that epistolary correspondence had failed to secure. So successful was that visit that on his return he was accompanied by three ministers, the Revs. Wm. Clyde, Alexander Dunn and George Murray. These men, with the Rev. A. B. Nichol-



REV. SIMON MCGREGOR, M.A.
MINISTER 1870 TO 1881



BROUGHTON ST. HALL
CHURCH HOME, 1866 - 1869



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, OLD BUILDING
OPENED 1869

170 East Illinois Street 1850



REV. ROBERT STEPHEN, M.A.
MINISTER 1881 TO 1887

son, who had supplied the pulpit of St. Andrew's during Mr. McGregor's absence, joined him in organizing the Presbytery of British Columbia. He also had secured from the mother church a pledge of £1,000 per year towards the support of the work of the new presbytery.

In 1881 Mr. McGregor withdrew from the work and returned to Scotland, where he became minister of the parish of Appin. In 1904 he retired from active service and made his home in Edinburgh, where he died in 1906.

His successor was the Rev. Robert Stephen—a man of scholarly attainments, refined sentiments and unostentatious piety and retiring disposition. His pastorate continued until 1887.

That year was marked by another important event in the history of St. Andrew's—the withdrawal of the congregation from the benign care of the Church of Scotland and its union with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Five years earlier a deputy from the Canadian Church—the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, Moderator of the General Assembly—had visited the Coast with the object of learning what might be the disposition of the Scottish Presbyterians here towards such a change. The time for such action did seem ripe, and when, in 1887, the transfer actually took place, the mother church gave her cordial benediction.

In the new relation a call was extended to the Rev. P. McF. McLeod, of Toronto, who was inducted on March 7th, 1888. During Mr. McLeod's pastorate the present edifice was erected—the cornerstone being laid by the Hon. John Robson, elder, Premier and benefactor of every worthy cause, on March 7th, 1889, and the formal opening taking place on January 11th, 1890. The preachers on that occasion were the Rev. D. J. MacDonell, of Toronto, and the Rev. E. D. McLaren, of Vancouver. Mr. McLeod retired from the pastorate of the church in 1893, and went to England, where in Tooting, South London, he served with distinction until his death.

12 - front view - north - 1890

In June of the following year the Rev. W. Leslie Clay was inducted, and continues to minister to the congregation.

Through many years of general depression the congregation struggled with a huge debt incurred in the erection of the present building. At times the burden seemed greater than we could bear. Finally a scheme, devised by the business acumen of Mr. R. P. Rithet, and supported by his munificence, was adopted by the congregation, and loyally, often self-denyingly, pursued, until on the fortieth anniversary of the church's founding (1906) the last dollar was paid, and St. Andrew's was free of debt.

To review half a century of congregational life is to arouse varied emotions. What hopes, fears, disappointments, rejoicings; what praise and what passion; what faithful service and what grander aspirations breathe and sob through old records of session and board!

What a cloud of witnesses hover about us on our fiftieth birthday—not less interested because invisible and inaudible to outer sense! Somerville, McGregor, Stephen, McLeod, Wallace, Bissett, Gibson, Munro, Lang, Lawson, Pottinger, Hogarth, Carmichael, Finlayson, Hutcheson, Heisterman, Thomson, McMicking—these and others, men and women whom time and space would fail me to mention, having obtained a good repose through faith, have entered upon the service of the Church Triumphant!

In gratitude to God and in memory of them we reverently keep our jubilee.

Now to the only wise God, our Saviour, by Whose unfailling favor we have been brought unto this hour, be the Glory and the Praise, both now and forever. Amen.



REV. PATRICK MACFARLANE McLEOD
1888-1893



REV. W. LESLIE CLAY, B.A., D.D.
INDUCTED JUNE 1894

ELDERS OF ST. ANDREW'S PAST AND PRESENT



Jas. Bissett, Alex. Munro, Wm. Gibson, Robt. Wallace, George Pottinger, John Finlayson, John Robson, John Sinclair, David Lindsay, T. M. Henderson, Thomas McConnan, Robert Burns McMicking, R. Cruickshank, G. L. Milne, J. T. Bethune, Rev. A. B. Winchester, Jas. Hogarth, W. B. Christopher, J. A. Thompson, J. S. Gordon, C. C. Michener.

AT PRESENT THE SESSION CONSISTS OF:
T. A. Brydon, J. B. McKilligan, P. J. Riddell, Wm. Archibald, D. McLean, D. McIntosh, G. H. Robertson, W. A. Gleason, W. J. F. Mallagh, Fred BurrIDGE, W. G. McLaren, Rev. W. L. MacRae, Angus Polson, Jas. Murie, D. Milne, Alex. McLean and R. W. McIntyre.

IN THE JUBILEE SERVICES, September 24th to October 3rd, 1916, the following ministers took part: The Revs. W. H. Smith, B.D., Ph.D., Vancouver; M. A. Matthews, D.D., LL.D., Seattle; H. S. Osborne, B.D., Victoria; R. J. Wilson, D.D., Vancouver; and Very Rev. A. B. Baird, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly.