

280M.T.79:



HISTORICAL SKETCH

...OF...

TRINITY CHURCH

1840-1902.



Montreal, Canada.

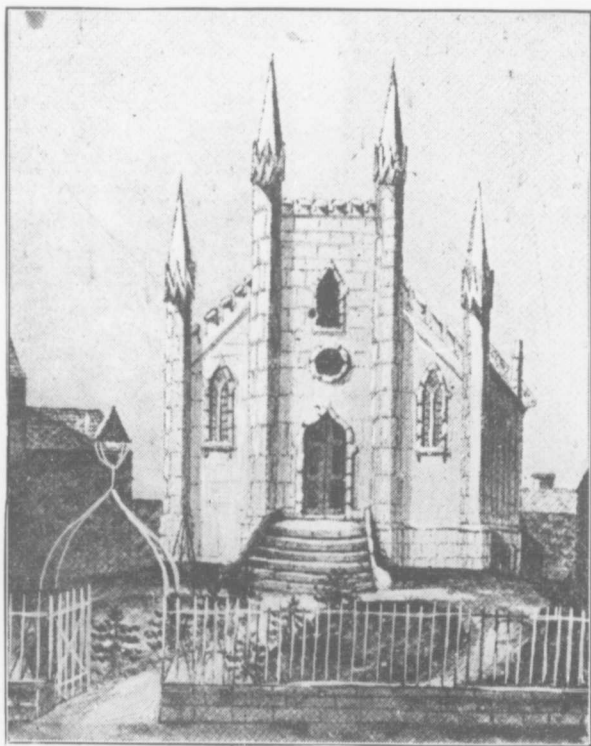
Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy
house, and the place where Thine honour
dwelleth.—Psalm xxvi.



TRINITY OHURCH, ST. DENIS STREET.

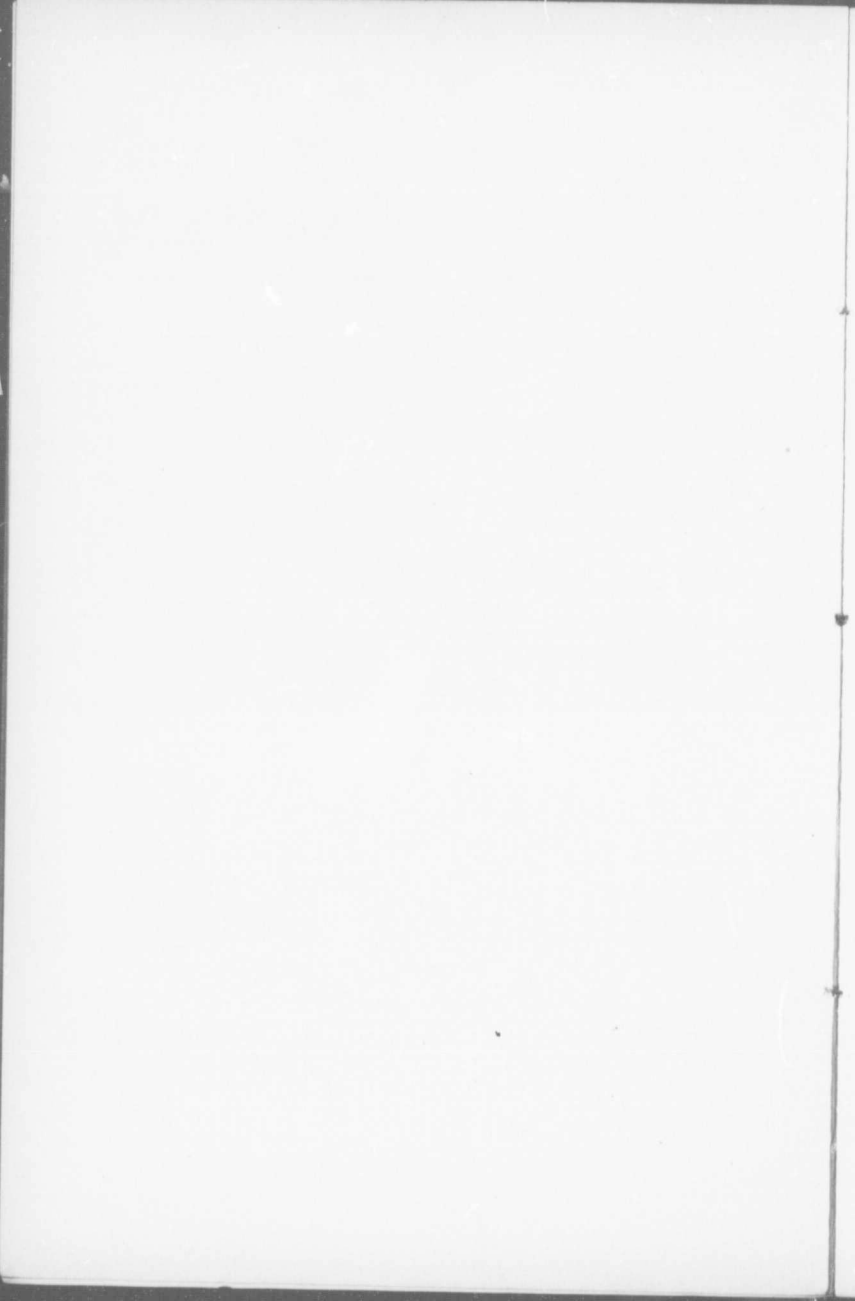


INTERIOR OF TRINITY CHURCH. ST. DENIS STREET



THE FIRST TRINITY CHURCH, 1840.

It was situated on St. Paul Street, opposite Bonsecours Market.



TRINITY CHURCH.

Among the Anglican churches of Montreal Trinity Church, situated at the north-west corner of Viger square, ranks in point of age next to Christ Church Cathedral. Its records date back to May, 1840, but it is evident that the first church building, which occupied a site on the historic Bonsecours market was erected before that date, though probably not long before. The names of many of Montreal's most prominent citizens of two or three generations ago

herents and friends and its future never appeared brighter than it does to-day.

The name of Major W. P. Christie is intimately associated with the founding of Trinity Church. The earliest authentic records to be found referring to the organization of the Church, bear the date of May 14, 1840. On that date rules were formulated for the guidance of the committee charged by Major Christie with the management of the new church. Mr. John H. Maitland,



THE REV. MARK WILLOUGHBY,
The first Rector of Trinity Church.

are associated with the history and progress of this church. To-day, after passing through many vicissitudes, days of adversity as well as of prosperity, it stands as one of Montreal's most beautiful, influential and prosperous churches. It has had a succession of distinguished clergymen as rectors. It counts wealthy and generous supporters among its ad-

treasurer, and Mr. Joseph Jones, are mentioned as being the officers of the committee.

This church, which was built entirely at the expense of Major Christie, stood on St. Paul street, immediately opposite the centre of the present Bonsecours market. The building was long ago torn down and the site is now occupied

by business places of different kinds, the present numbers being from 125 to 129.

The edifice is described as an elegant structure, built in the Gothic style of architecture, 75 feet long by 44 feet wide, and capable of seating eight hundred persons. Mr. John Bell was the architect. (The interior was suitably fitted up and was much admired. It was opened for public worship on May 20, 1840.

The dedication services were conducted by the Right Rev. George Jehoshaphat Mountain, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Montreal, assisted by Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, and the sermons were preached on the first Sunday by the Very Rev. Dean Bethune and the Rev.

stood, altogether about half an acre, to the Right Rev. Bishop Mountain, and his successors in office from henceforth and forever,' etc.

The Rev. Mark Willoughby was at this time curate of the church, and it was stipulated in the deed that he should 'for and during the term of his natural life have, hold and enjoy the said office of curate, with the annual stipend,' etc.

Another reservation was 'that the vault beneath the said chapel and the right of using the same for purpose of sepulture shall be and remain exclusively vested in, and the incommutable property of, the said donor and his heirs and assigns forever.'

At a meeting of the pewholders held on April 17, 1843, the deed of transfer



HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP MOUNTAIN,
Archbishop and Metropolitan in the early
days of Trinity Church.

Mark Willoughby, the latter being the first incumbent of the church, and Dr. Bethune being at the time the rector of Christ Church.

To prevent the adoption of a custom which prevailed very generally at the time a regulation was made prohibiting the placing of monuments or tablets on the walls of the church. Another rule limited the colors to be used for pew furniture to crimson and scarlet.

The first entry in the church register bears the date April 26, 1840, and the first baptism is recorded under date of May 17, 1840. The first marriage was solemnized on July 2, 1840, and the first funeral took place on July 16, 1840.

On March 7, 1843, Major Christie gave the church and the land on which it

and trust was read by the Rev. Mr. Willoughby and agreed to, after which Messrs. Jones and Maitland were appointed wardens of the church.

The year 1847 was the year of the terrible ship fever. While ministering to the victims of the dread disease in the immigrant sheds the Rev. Mr. Willoughby contracted the fever, and on July 15, after a few days' illness, he passed away at the age of fifty-one years.

The Rev. Mark Willoughby was a native of Somerset, England. From his youth he was devoted to the cause of his Master. Coming to Canada, he was appointed agent of the Newfoundland School Society, and while on a trip through the Montreal district with

Bishop Mountain, and visiting Sherbrooke, he was admitted to priest's orders at the same time as the Rev. W. Dawes. The names of both of these ministers are prominently connected with the early history of the Episcopal Church in this province. In their death they were not divided, for both died from the ship fever, which they contracted while in attendance upon the immigrants in 1847.

Mr. Willoughby did excellent work in initiating the operations of the school society while Mr. Dawes filled the office of secretary of the Diocesan Church Society with earnestness and ability from the time of its organization until his death. Captain Lloyd, of the Royal Navy, a close friend of the Rev. Mr. Willoughby, was taken ill a few days

congregation of Trinity Church was also taken to the cemetery and re-erected.

The death of the Rev. Mr. Willoughby was followed by that of four other clergymen of the diocese, besides Mr. John Crispo, clerk of the church, and William Ogden, who, with Captain Lloyd, were lay readers and were studying for the ministry at the time, all being members of the same church.

DISTINGUISHED ADHERENTS.

While the British troops were stationed in Montreal the officers of the various regiments worshipped, usually at Trinity Church. Among the pewholders the following names will be interesting to mention: The Earl of Erroll, Col. Napier, Col. Campbell, General Gore and General Evans.



THE REV. CANON BANCROFT, D.D.,
Who ministered in all three churches.

before him and he also soon died. The Rev. Mr. Willoughby was buried in the old Dorchester street burying ground, his funeral sermon being preached in Trinity Church by the Rev. W. B. Bond (now Lord Archbishop) who also did heroic work among the sufferers, but providentially escaped the plague. It is recorded that His Grace was ordained as priest in Trinity Church in October, 1841.

When the Dorchester street burying ground was converted into Dufferin square in 1871 Mr. Jones caused the remains of the Rev. Mr. Willoughby to be removed to Mount Royal Cemetery and re-interred in his own lot. The monument erected to his memory by the

General Sir Richard D. Jackson, commander of the forces, who administered the government in 1841-42, died suddenly in Montreal in July, 1845, and his funeral service was conducted at Trinity Church, which was suitably draped for the occasion. His successor, Earl Cathcart, was also a pewholder of this church as well as other distinguished personages.

Other prominent citizens found among the pewholders of the early days included Judges Day, Dunkin and Gale, Sheriff Coffin, Dr. Holmes, etc.

In 1842 the Rev. D. B. Parmer and the Rev. Frederick Broome were appointed assistant ministers to Mr. Willoughby. The former was ordained as

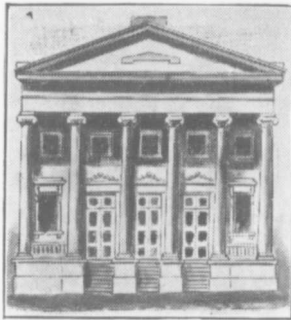
deacon in 1840 and priest in 1841. He was assistant minister from 1842 to March, 1847.

Upon the death of the Rev. Mr. Wiloughby and the retirement of the Rev. Mr. Parnter, the Rev. Mr. Broome strove nobly to keep this important congregation together, but he was not very successful and resigned in 1848.

After the death of Major Christie, which occurred about 1847 the presentation to the incumbency was vested with Col. Wilgress, of Lachine, Messrs. Jeffrey Hale, of Quebec, and McGinnis, of Christville, Que. They nominated the Rev. Alexander D. Campbell, who came from England early in the year 1848, to assume the rectorship. His ministrations

was appointed to St. Paul's Chapel, at Quebec; curate at St. Anne's, Brooklyn, N.Y., rector, St. Thomas, Montreal, and rector of St. Johns, Que., before taking charge of Trinity Church. He was made honorary canon of Christ Church Cathedral also in 1854. Canon Bancroft ministered successively to the congregations in St. Paul street, Gosford street and St. Denis street, laboring earnestly and faithfully for over seventeen years, until failing health compelled him, in 1876, to retire.

Mr. R. H. Buchanan, superintendent of the Sunday-school of St. James the Apostle Church, and one of the foremost Sunday-school workers in Canada to-day, married a daughter of Canon Bancroft.



THE SECOND TRINITY CHURCH.
Sited on Gosford street. It is still standing.

resulted in disappointment and finally failure and he resigned in September, 1858. Among the liberal and true friends of the cause at this time was Mr. Henry Rogers, of Wolverhampton, England. The Rev. Canon Bancroft, D.D., was the Rev. Mr. Campbell's successor, assuming the duties of rector of Trinity Church on Jan. 29, 1859. Dr. Bancroft was born at Montreal in 1819; graduated at Columbia College, New York, B.A., M.A., D.D.; received *ad eundem*, M.A., and D.D., from Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and M.A., LL.D., from McGill College, Montreal. He was ordained deacon in 1843, priest in 1844 by the Lord Bishop (Mountain) of Quebec, and

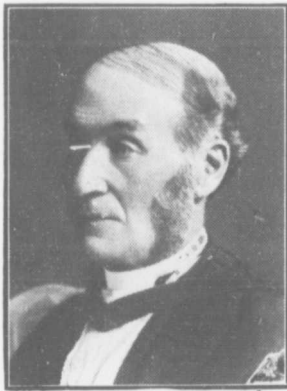
During the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Bancroft, the assistant ministers who officiated for the longest periods and who will be still remembered by some of the members are the Rev. W. B. Curran, who resigned to accept the charge of St. Stephen's Church, Montreal, in March, 1864, and subsequently removed to Ontario, where he became rector of St. Thomas's Church, at Hamilton, and canon of the Diocese of Niagara. He was succeeded for a few months by the Rev. Douglas Borthwick, who officiated from November, 1865, to May, 1866.

The Right Rev. J. P. Dumoulin, M.A., Bishop of Niagara, who followed, first officiated as assistant m-

ister on May 20, 1866. His earnest eloquence will never be forgotten by the generation to whom he ministered. He relinquished the office in September, 1870, the Rev. H. H. Waters occupying the office for the next two years. The Rev. O. Fortin, B.A., acted in the capacity of assistant minister from November, 1872, to September, 1875. By his genial manner and constant solicitude for the welfare of the parishioners, he won the esteem of all. He left after three years to accept a call to Trinity Church, Winnipeg, of which he is still the rector, as well as being Archdeacon of Rupert's Land.

thedral congregation, which, after the burning of their place of worship on Notre Dame street, had occupied what was known as St. John's Church, on Gosford street, removed to the new Cathedral on St. Catherine street, which was opened in the fall of that year. The congregation of Trinity purchased this building, moved into it, and worshipped there for about five years. The old church building on St. Paul street was torn down and removed and the lot sold.

The Gosford street church was erected and opened in 1845, and was called the Second Congregational Church. It was built in the Grecian style of architec-



HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP DUMOULIN,
Formerly Assistant Minister of Trinity
Church.

The Rev. Canon Empson, M.A., assisted from April to October, 1872, and the Rev. R. W. B. Webster from March to November, 1876.

The incumbency of the Rev. Dr. Bancroft was the great transition period in the history of Trinity Church. By his zeal and energy he very soon revived the interest which had waned during the ministrations of his predecessor. Harmony and good feeling were restored and the congregation increased until the old church failed to accommodate the worshippers. In the year 1860 the Ca-

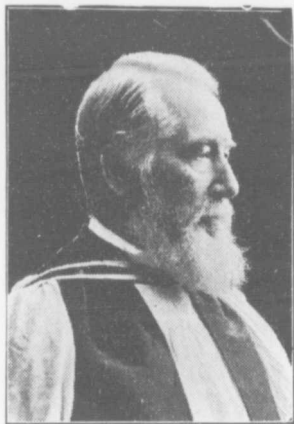
ture, from plans by Mr. John Wells. The length of the building, including the portico, was seventy-eight feet; the width fifty feet, and the height fifty feet. The portico has six Ionic columns, twenty-six feet six inches in height. The church was calculated to seat 840 persons. This place was not considered suitable for a permanent place of worship and the congregation soon began to talk about building elsewhere. A site was secured at the north-west corner of Viger square and St. Denis street, and early in 1864 work

on the proposed new church was commenced. The old Gosford street building is still standing.

The corner stone was laid on Thursday, June 23, 1864, by Bishop Fulford, with a very imposing ceremony. Among those who took part were the Most Rev. the Lord Bishop, the Very Rev. the Dean, Archdeacon Scott, D.D., the Rev. Canon Leach, D.C.L., LL.D., and the incumbent, the Rev. Canon Bancroft, D.D. An address was given by Mr. Hugh Taylor, chairman of the building committee. The contents of the jar to be deposited were read by Mr. Lawford,

tan. The Right Rev. J. Travers Lewis, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L., Lord Bishop of Ontario, preached in the afternoon and the Right Rev. Benjamin Cronyn, D.D., Lord Bishop of Huron, preached at the evening service.

The musical portions of the services were conducted by Mr. Frederick Barnby. Mr. Barnby was a brother of Barnby, the composer, and was at one time organist at Albert Hall, London, England. He presided over the choir in the new church for only two Sundays, for he was taken sick and died after a very short illness on Sept. 30.



HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP BOND,
Who was ordained in Trinity Church.

the architect, and the corner stone was laid by the Most Rev. the Lord Bishop and Metropolitan. The Gloria was chanted by the choir and children of the Sunday and day schools, under the direction of Mr. Barnby, the organist. By permission of Major Dillon, the band of the 30th Regiment, under the direction of the Bandmaster, Mr. J. Zeigler, was in attendance.

The church was opened for public worship on Sept. 17, 1865. The dedicatory sermon was preached in the morning by the Most Rev. Francis Fulford, D.D., Lord Bishop of Montreal and Metropoli-

Numerous instances of generous donations towards the completion of the church are recorded. The two upper stories of the tower and the spire of the church were completed in 1866 through the munificence of Mrs. William Molson, who gave ten thousand dollars for that object.

A small mural tablet in the vestibule of the church bears an inscription commemorative of her generosity. The font, lectern, reading desk and pulpit were gifts from military officers then in England, but who had attended the old

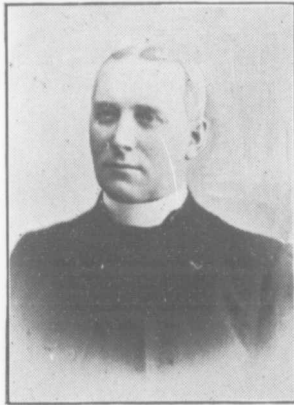
church when they were stationed in Montreal.

The chancel windows, made by Messrs. Spence & Sons, of this city, were also gifts.

The centre one was presented by Mr. Charles Garth in memory of the Rev. M. Willoughby. One on the left side of the chancel was given by Colonel Moffat; another by Mr. J. G. Mackenzie is in memory of his wife. On the right is one in memory of Charles C. Brydges, from his father, and another from Mr. Henry Rogers, of Wolverhampton, Eng-

the material is Montreal limestone; natural faced and coursed work with cut stone dressings.

But the church which had such an auspicious beginning was destined to pass through a season of trial and financial straits. The original plan was to build a church to cost \$50,000 and accommodate a thousand persons. This plan was altered so as to afford accommodation for 1,500 persons and the cost was increased in proportion. The burden of debt was so great that in 1882 the mortgage was foreclosed and the Trust and



HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP MILLS, OF
ONTARIO.

A successful rector of Trinity Church.

land. Messrs. Lawford and Nelson were the architects, and the following are the dimensions of the church:—Length outside, 173 feet; width outside, 78 feet; height of church to top of ceiling, inside, 52 feet 6 inches; height of spire, 200 feet; tower outside, including buttresses, 32 feet square. The ground floor will comfortably seat 850 persons, and the gallery 400, while 1,500 can be accommodated, if required. The basement is 113 feet by 65 feet, and is very suitable for lecture hall and school room purposes. The building is of the early English Gothic style of architecture, and

Loan Company, to secure themselves, bought the property in at sheriff's sale. The company, however, granted the congregation permission to use the building for divine service.

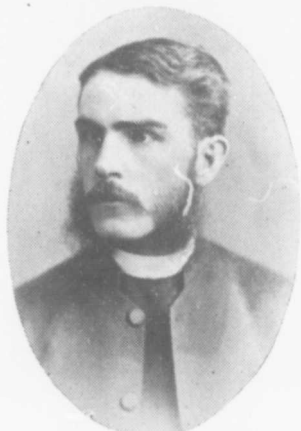
Through the exertions of His Lordship (then) Bishop Bond, and the Ven. Archdeacon Evans, and the liberality of Mr. A. F. Gault, (whose large-hearted generosity towards church interests on many occasions has called for most grateful recognition), and also Mr. Charles Garth, and other friends, a sufficient sum was raised to recover the property, and thus save it to the congregation. On the

resignation of Dr. Bancroft, the Rev. J. G. Baylis took charge of the work for about six months, at the end of which time, September, 1877, the Rev. W. Craig was appointed rector. After two years in that position he resigned and was succeeded by the Rev. John Walters, who assumed the charge in April, 1880, and remained during the troublous times until the closing of the church in 1882.

The Rev. Canon Mills was appointed to the charge in September, 1882, and it was largely due to his wise and untiring efforts that the church was reorganized

The burden of debt which caused so much discouragement to former rectors and brought about the resignation of some of them, was reduced, during the rectorship of Canon Mills, to ten thousand dollars. In addition to his untiring and unremitting efforts Canon Mills contributed \$3,800 toward paying off the church's encumbrance. Mr. Charles Garth added to his already munificent donations the sum of \$1,400. Mr. A. F. Gault gave \$1,000 in addition to many generous gifts on former occasions.

The Right. Rev. Wm. Lennox Mills, Bishop of Ontario, is a son of the



THE REV. WILLIAM CRAIG,

Appointed Rector in 1877.

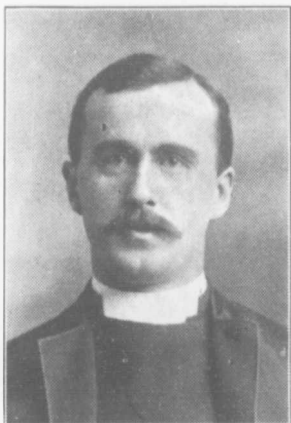
and the property redeemed. When he became rector there were but forty-two families and eighteen communicants belonging to the church. Five months after he took charge he numbered eighty-three families among his supporters and the work continued to grow until in 1888 there were 373 families and 420 communicants, and in 1890, 445 families and 567 communicants were receiving pastoral care. Canon Mills resigned the rectorship of Trinity Church on being appointed Archdeacon of St. Andrew's, in 1896. He accepted the Bishopric of Ontario on Sept. 5, 1900.

late Mr. William Mills, of Toronto. He was born at Woodstock, Ont., and was educated there and at the Western University. He pursued his theological studies at Huron College and at Trinity University, Toronto, where he graduated B.D. in 1882, and was made D.D. in 1894. He was rector of St. Thomas's Church, Seaforth, and St. Johns, Que., before coming to Trinity, Montreal. He was installed as a canon of Christ Church Cathedral in 1883. He married in 1886 Katherine S., daughter of the late Mr. Stanley Bagg, of this city. Miss Bagg was his second wife,

Miss Macdonald, of St. Johns, having been his first.

The Rev. E. A. Willoughby King, B.A., a godson of the first minister of the church, was assistant minister to Canon Mills. Mr. King was born at Robinson, Bury, Que., educated at Bishop's College Grammar School, and Lennoxville University. He was assistant minister at St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, in 1870; incumbent of Durham, Que., 1871-75; travelling missionary, chaplain of quarantine station and rector of Nicolet, 1875; incumbent of Magog and Georgeville, 1876; was missionary in Riviere du

appointed to succeed him, and entered upon his new duties immediately. During his incumbency the work of the parish prospered greatly; every year saw very material increases both in attendance and finances, the Protestant population living in the vicinity being more settled and permanent. In addition to meeting all current expenses it was found to be possible to reduce the mortgage debt by eleven hundred dollars. It was with regret that the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Graham was received in December last upon his accepting a call to St. Saviour's Church, at Nelson, B.C.



THE REV. F. H. GRAHAM.
Former Rector of Trinity Church.

Loup and adjacent parts for some time; rector of Levis and South Quebec, 1879-85; assistant at St. Matthias Church, Montreal, 1886; was one of the assistants at Christ Church Cathedral and appointed assistant at Trinity on Nov. 1, 1899.

The Rev. Canon Mills, after fourteen years of faithful labor as rector handed in his resignation at the Easter vestry meeting in 1896 and on Oct. 1, of the same year, his connection with the church ceased, much to the regret of the congregation.

The Rev. Frederick H. Graham was



THE REV. C. G. ROLLIT,
Present Rector of Trinity Church.

On Jan. 6, 1902, the Rev. C. G. Rollit, formerly assistant minister of the Church of St. James the Apostle, was appointed rector.

At the adjourned Easter vestry meeting, held on May 12 last, the wardens' report showed the debt to be only \$8,500. For several years past all expenses have been met and a balance has been carried forward. This year the balance amounted to \$418.

In its very earliest days a Sunday school was established in connection with Trinity Church. It has had very

few superintendents, and has been conducted with a marked degree of efficiency and success. Mr. Henry Bancroft, a brother of Canon Bancroft, was the first superintendent. He was followed by Mr. William Cooper, who subsequently went to reside at Longueuil, and Mr. E. H. Butteris, who followed Mr. Cooper, was superintendent for twenty-five years, resigning two years ago.

At one time a day school was carried on in connection with the church, of which the Rev. Mr. Dixon, now Canon Dixon, of St. Jude's, had charge.

LIST OF WARDENS.

The following is, as nearly as can be ascertained, a correct list of the ward-

Mr. W. Drumm, 1858; Robert Kirby, Joseph Jones, 1859; W. A. Merry, Joseph Jones, 1860; Mr. Merry and Mr. Charles Garth, 1862; Messrs. Jones and Chas. Garth, 1866; Mr. C. J. Brydges, Mr. C. Garth, 1869; Messrs. James Jack and Chas. Lee, 1872; Capt. Durnford, Joseph Jones, 1875; Mr. Jones, Dr. Perrigo, 1876; Frederick Cole, P. A. Crossby, 1877; Mr. Cole, Mr. J. G. Howden, 1880; Mr. W. W. Le Messurier, manager, 1881; Mr. Le Messurier and S. C. Fatt, 1883; Mr. Andrew Baile, S. C. Fatt, 1885; Mr. Baile and Mr. Charles Garth, 1886; Mr. E. J. Bone and Mr. Charles Garth, 1889; Mr. Garth and Mr. Bone, 1890; Mr. Garth and Mr. Henry Miles, 1892; Mr. A. Baile and Mr. E. H. Lydon, 1896; Mr.



MR. CHARLES GARTH,

One of the principal benefactors of Trinity Church.

ens of the church, from its commencement: Capt. J. H. Maitland and Joseph Jones, 1840; Messrs. Jones and Maitland, 1843; Col. Maitland, Robert Mackay, 1846; Col. Maitland, John Lovell, 1847; John Lovell, Capt. Maitland, 1848; Joseph Jones, Geo. Pyke, 1849; Thos. Hawkins, Geo. Pyke, 1850, probably re-elected in 1852; in August, 1852, Thos. Hawkins resigned and James Torry was appointed in his stead; Wm. Henry Hopper and Joseph Tiffin were appointed in 1853; Mr. Hopper and Mr. Pyke in 1854; Mr. Hopper and Mr. John Campbell, in 1855; William Turner was elected in 1856, with, probably, Mr. Campbell re-elected. John Sloan and A. N. Rennie, 1857; Mr. Rennie and

Jas. Mitchell and Mr. E. H. Butteris, 1898; Messrs. Mitchell and Butteris, re-elected, 1902, rector's and people's wardens respectively.

Mr. John Horatius Maitland, mentioned above, was a captain in the British army and a colonel of the Montreal Volunteers. His experience in the British service was of great value in organizing the local militia corps. He was president of the Bible Society and prominently connected with the educational, philanthropic and religious movements of his day. He planted the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company in Montreal in 1851, and was the resident secretary of the company until his death in 1863, when he was

succeeded by Mr. G. F. C. Smith, the present chief agent and secretary.

Mr. Joseph Jones was in his day corner for the district of Montreal, and a leading citizen.

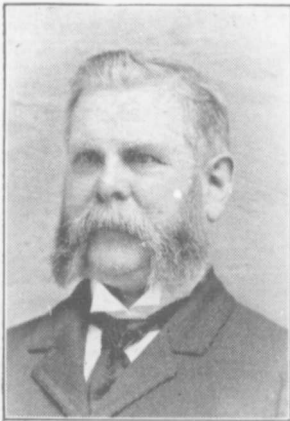
Mr. Charles Garth, for many years a warden of the church, has proved himself one of its most faithful and liberal friends.

In addition to other generous acts, Mr. Garth, during the incumbency of Canon Mills, caused the church to be re-decorated at a cost of about two thousand dollars, the whole of which was done un-

tion was made during the leadership of Mr. Henry Miles, who was its director for some years, bringing it up to a very high standard at the time of the church's jubilee in 1890, which standard it has been its aim to maintain ever since.

Among the friends and helpers of the church, Mrs. Jones, who presided at the organ for nine years gratuitously, must be mentioned. The present organist is Mr. J. W. Larmine, and the choir director is Mr. W. Halle, nephew of the late Sir Charles Halle.

The following societies are maintained



MR. E. H. BUTTERIS,
Present People's Warden.

der his personal supervision and entirely at his own expense.

Much might be said of the late Messrs. John Lovell, Lusher, Chas. Grant, T. P. Roe, W. C. Evans, J. Sloan, Archdeacon Lindsay, Rural Dean Lindsay Miss Robertson, Lieut.-Col. Hanson and others.

The choir of Trinity Church has for years been noted for its large membership and excellent service. Its reputa-



MR. JAMES MITCHELL,
Rector's Warden of Trinity Church.

with much efficiency in connection with Trinity Church: The Ladies' Auxiliary, of which Mrs. James Mitchell is the president; the Chancel Guild, whose president is Miss LeMessurier; St. Agnes Guild, president and general manager, Miss Wilson; the Band of Hope, Miss LeMessurier; the Sunday-School Guild, president, the Rev. C. G. Rollit; vice-president, Miss Wilson; secretary-treasurer, Miss Butteris.