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THE
PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTFOLIO :
A
MONTHLY VIEW
OF
CANADIAN SCENES AND SCENERY,
BY
S. McLAUGHLIN.

QUEBEC :
MIDDLETON & DAWSON, PRINTERS, SHAW'S BUILDINGS, LOWER TOWN.

Entered according to an Act of the Provincial Legislature, in the year 1858, by S. McLACHLIN,
in the Office of the Registrar of the Province of Canada.



*L'Intérieur du cathédrale.
Duché.*

*Photographie prise par
L. W. Langdon.*

THE METROPOLITAN CHURCH. QUEBEC.

QUEBEC having fallen into the hands of the English in the year 1629, the operations of the "Company of New France" (*La Compagnie de la Nouvelle France*),—the charter of which constituted Canada a proprietary Government—were necessarily suspended. It was not until the year 1633, that this Company reassumed all their rights, in consequence of the treaty signed at St. Germain en Laye, on the 29th March, 1632. In 1633, M de Champlain, who had made a vow that if France re-entered into possession of Canada, he would have a Chapel built, under the title of *Notre Dame de Recouvrance*, (Our Lady of Recovery,) caused one to be erected in Quebec, on the south side of the market square, in the Upper Town, at the cost of the Company. The Chapel was so called, also on account of an image in relievo of the Virgin Mary, found after the shipwreck of one of the Fathers sent out by the Company, while on his way to this country. This Chapel, as well as the house of the R. F. Jesuits, was destroyed by fire, in 1640. On the 8th of October, 1645, the necessary steps were taken to reconstruct the edifice, but it was not until the 24th September, 1647, that the corner-stone was laid, with appropriate solemnity, by the R. F. Lalemand, and M. de Montmagny, the Governor General. On the 24th December, 1650, the consecration took place, and the first Mass was said by R. F. Poncet. The spire was raised in 1655. Divine service commenced to be performed in the Church on the 31st March, 1657. It was consecrated and dedicated as a Cathedral, under the title of the *Immaculate Conception*, on the 11th July, 1666, by Monseigneur de Laval, Bishop of Petreæ, and Vicar-Apostolic of New France, to whom the Colony was also indebted for the creation of the Quebec Seminary. In 1688, the Church was lengthened fifty feet, and two square towers were added, one on each side of the portal. In 1744, the wood-work being decayed, it was determined that a new edifice should be constructed on the same site. No mention is made as to whether the old walls were used for this purpose, but it is said the Church was built forty feet longer, and that twenty-eight feet were added to the width on each side, according to plans prepared by M. Chaussegros de Lery, chief engineer of the Colony. The Church suffered severely during the bombardment by the English, on the 23rd

July, 1759. In fact, it was almost burnt down on that occasion, having been set on fire by shells discharged from Point Levi. The consequence was, that the fine pictures and other ancient ornaments of the Cathedral were mutilated or entirely destroyed. Those which are now seen upon the walls were placed there when the building was renovated, in 1771, after the cession of the country to Great Britain. In 1844, the front wall was taken down and replaced by the one now to be seen ; at the same time was commenced the cut stone tower on the north side which still remains unfinished : this and the old wooden tower on the south side much detract from the external appearance of the pile. During the present year, 1858, a splendid iron balustrade has been put up, which completes the façade of the edifice. The Cathedral within is one hundred and ninety-five feet, French measurement, in length, by ninety-six feet eight inches in breadth. At the east end are the High Altar and Choir, superbly decorated. Many of the ornaments in the Choir are tastefully gilt, especially a very elegant canopy. In the cornice is a fine statue of the Virgin,—Titulary of the Church. There are four Altars in the Church, all with beautiful tabernacles. The Choir contains the Archiepiscopal seat, raised three steps, and is provided with stalls for the clergy, on each side. The choristers are placed in reserved seats, opposite the Archiepiscopal throne. The pulpit is in nearly the middle of the nave, facing the Churchwardens' pew. In a transverse gallery, at the west end, is the organ, which is considered a fine one, and is enclosed in a costly case. The ceiling above the nave is very lofty ; and the galleries over the aisles greatly add to the accommodation. The Church is able to contain a congregation of almost four thousand persons. Over the Altars, on the spaces between the galleries, and on the pillars of the nave, may be seen several pictures, of which the following is a list :—

The painting over the High Altar represents the Virgin Mary, with distinguishing emblems, the crown of stars encircling her head, a globe and serpent under her feet, surrounded by angels.
 On the right of the Choir, is the Visions of the Apostle St. Paul,—II Ep. Cor. XII. By Carlo Maratti.
 Opposite, on the left, is Restout's fine painting of the Saviour, ministered to by angels.
 In St. Anne's Chapel—St. Anne interceding with God.
 The Altar picture in St. Famille Chapel, is a copy of the principal painting in the Seminary Chapel,—The Flight into Egypt.—St. Matthew, chap. 2, v. 19 21.
 On one side of the Pulpit is The Death of Christ, surrounded by Angels weeping. By Van Dyke.
 The Descent of the Holy Ghost.—By Vignon. Acts of Ap. chap. 2.
 The Annunciation.
 In the Chapelle of *Notre Dame de Pitie*,—The Burial of the Saviour by devout women.
 The Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist.
 In the bell-tower—a naked Cross, as it appeared after the Saviour was taken down.
 On the side of the Churchwardens' Pew.—The Holy Family, by Blanchard.
 The Saviour in the midst of Soldiers in the Judgment Hall, by Fleuret. St. Matthew, ch. 17, 27 31.
 The Birth of the Saviour ; copy of the famous picture by Annibal Carrache.

In this Cathedral are interred seven Bishops and Archbishops of Quebec, viz. ; Messieurs De Laval, De Lauberivière Briand, Hubert, Plessis, Panet, and Signay. Besides the bodies of a great many dignitaries and ecclesiastics attached to the Church, there are in the vaults those of nearly all the French Governors who died in the Colony, had been buried in the Jesuits' and *Recollets* Chapels, and whose remains were exhumed and transferred to this repository for the dead. Before the Church was renovated, some years ago, might be seen, on one of the pillars, an inscription on a brass plate, mentioning the burial of Anne Lucie Marie Magdeleine Becher, wife of Lieutenant-General Thomas Clarke, who died 30th June, 1784. At present, there are but two memorial tablets,—those of Mgr. J. O. Plessis, and M. Hubert, one of the Curés of the Parish.