

THE CATHEDRAL.

Semi-Centennial Celebration of Its Consecration.

ITS ORIGIN AND CONSTRUCTION RECALLED.

A Monument to the Energy of the Late Metropolitan.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral in this city recalls the most interesting and affecting ceremony which dedicated it forever to the worship of God.

The first sod for the foundation was turned on Aug. 28th, 1845, and the work so far progressed as to be ready for the laying of the foundation stone on Oct. 15 of the same year. The ceremony was performed by Sir William Colebrook, Governor of the province, in the presence of nearly three thousand people. The Bishop offered prayer, and the Governor and the Bishop both addressed the assemblage. The Band of the 33rd Regiment led the procession, and played the 100th psalm, which was sung by all with great heartiness.

The building operations proceeded steadily, and in the short space of eight years this most important and epoch-making structure was completed and ready for consecration.

It was indeed a work of faith to undertake so onerous a task, at the time at which it was begun. Nothing short of the energy and persistence of the first Bishop of Fredericton could have accomplished it. Not only did he raise by himself and through his friends in England large sums towards the cause so dear to his heart, not only did he contribute a considerable portion of his own private fortune, but he was able by his strong trust in the Divine assistance and in the ability and willingness of the people of this country to give, to arouse a widespread interest in the work, and to obtain substantial aid for the building fund. The Cathedral itself will always be his most fitting and enduring monument.

While the Cathedral was in process of building, the Bishop determined to erect a chapel of ease in the west part of the city, of which the seats were to be free, for the accommodation of the increasing population in that quarter. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday, May 30th, 1846, by the Hon. John S. Saunders, by whom the site had been given to the Bishop, a distinguished number of church people and others being present. On March 18th, 1847, only ten months after laying the corner stone, the Bishop's Chapel was consecrated by the name of St. Anne's Chapel, St. Anne's having been the original name of Fredericton. It is a signal tribute to the far seeing sagacity of the Bishop, that he perceived that the erection of this building for the worship of Almighty God, so far from being a check upon the operations at the Cathedral, would rather advance them, which turned out to be the case.

The eventful day of the consecration of the Cathedral at last arrived, and on August 31st 1853 that ceremony was duly performed. The Bishop writes in his journal "The Cathedral, the corner stone of which was laid Oct. 15th 1845, was consecrated this day. All praise to God, who has enabled me, amidst many difficulties to finish it. May the Lord pardon all that is amiss, and make it His holy dwelling place for evermore, Amen."

The consecration was of course performed by the Bishop of the diocese. There were present also the Bishop of Quebec, Right Reverend G. J. Mountain, the Bishop of Toronto, the Right Reverend John Strachan and Right Reverend Horatio Southgate, a Bishop of the church in the United States, besides the Rev. Dr. Haight, of New York, Dr. Edson, of Lowell, Mass., Archdeacon Coster, rector of Fredericton, Rev. Richard Podmore, curate of St. Anne's Chapel, Rev. F. Coster, rector of Carleton, and other clergy of the diocese to the number of sixty. A procession was formed at 10 a. m. in which were several members of the Bench and Bar in their robes, Officers of the 76th Regiment, the Mayor and other distinguished inhabitants of the city and neighborhood, attended by boys bearing banners.

The sermon was preached by Bishop Southgate from Ps. cxxii., v. 8, 9.

The music at the consecration service was very fine. The organist was Mr. S.

A. Hayter, who had received his training at Salisbury Cathedral, and was an organist and musician of the very first rank, and a personal friend of Bishop Medley, who invited him to play on the new organ at the consecration.

The services connected with the consecration of the Cathedral lasted for a week, during which eloquent and appropriate sermons were preached by the Bishop of Quebec, formerly rector of the parish of Fredericton; by Dr. Haight, and by Dr. Edson.

The extreme length of the Cathedral is 172 feet, and its width, exclusive of the porch, 67 feet. The height of the nave and choir to the ridge of the roof, 62 feet. The tower is 84 feet high to the base of the pinnacles, and the spire about 84, or 178 in all, including the cross; breadth across transept, 60; height of aisle walls, 20; height of clerestory, 43 feet.

The first impulse was given to the erection of this structure by two old and zealous friends of the Bishop, who determined to present him with some memorial of their affection and esteem. This feeling was shared by others, and the sum gathered amounted to £1500 sterling, which was presented to his Lordship by his former Diocesan, who bade him farewell in the presence of a large company, and presented him with a cheque for £1400 "towards a cathedral, or any other church purposes." Stimulated by this generous offering, the Bishop sent down Mr. Wille, then a young draughtsman in an architect's office in Exeter, to take the measurements of a fine church in Norfolk, at the village of Snettisham, a small place near the sea coast, which appeared to him to be a suitable model. There can be little doubt that Bishop Medley, being a Devonshire man, and the Vicar of St. Thomas' Church, Exeter, was greatly influenced in his choice of the style of architecture for his cathedral by his proximity to and acquaintance with the cathedral in that city.

On entering the west door, the eye is at once caught by the subdued and chastened brilliancy of the east window. It is chiefly the gift of members of the Church in the United States, though the artist, Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, England liberally gave £40 sterling towards it, besides the copper grating, worth £20 more. Beneath it are the words, "This window was given by members of the Church in the United States, and by the artist, W. W."

The windows are a series and are almost all memorial. Those at the west end of the aisles are considered by many to be the finest in the building. They were given by Bishop Medley subsequently to the consecration to replace others in memory of two very dear friends.

A word must be said about the bells. They were the gift of friends in England, and will sound forth their invitation to the Sanctuary when the names of the donors are forgotten. They are eight in number, weighing about five tons, the tenor, or largest bell, being 2800 lbs., in the key of E flat, and were cast by the celebrated firm of Warner, of London. They are full and mellow in tone.

Mention must now be made of some additions to the Cathedral since its consecration.

On August 4th 1860, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales who was travelling to Canada, paid a visit to the Cathedral, where he was received by the Bishop. On Sunday August 5th, the Prince with his staff attended divine worship at the Cathedral, the bishop preaching. As a memento of his visit, his Royal Highness sent a beautiful and valuable copy of the Holy Bible, inscribed with his autograph. This Bible is preserved in the Cathedral, and is used on great occasions.

The lamented death of Bishop Medley, first Bishop of Fredericton, whose work in building the Cathedral has been delineated above, took place on Sept. 9, 1892, he having been Bishop for the extended period of 47 years. He died at the age of 87. The clergy of his diocese erected the massive and graceful tomb over his body, which lies at the exterior of the east end of the chancel, in a spot selected and consecrated by himself.

The Right Reverend Hollingsworth Tully Kingston, D. D., of Trinity College, Cambridge, had been consecrated Bishop-Coadjutor in 1881, and on the death of Bishop Medley, succeeded him in the See. A movement was begun by Bishop Kingston for the erection of a recumbent effigy of Bishop Medley within the walls of the Cathedral. Sufficient funds having been raised by the church people of the diocese, the order was given to Bacon Bros., the eminent sculptors of London, who executed in due time an excellent figure of the Bishop, lying upon an altar tomb, after the manner of similar effigies in the ancient cathedrals and churches.

The following are the names of the clergy who have served the Cathedral:

The Rev. J. B. Medley, M. A., to June, 1861.

The Rev. C. S. Medley, B. A., to April, 1864.

The Rev. E. S. Medley, B. A.
The Rev. John Pearson, Sub-Dean, May, 1864 to Oct. 1875.
The Rev. Finlow Alexander, Sub-Dean, Nov. 5, 1875-1893.
The Rev. Clarence W. McCully, M. A., Vicar, 1893-1894.
The Rev. H. F. E. Whalley, Sub-Dean Nov. 1894, to Dec. 1899.
The Very Rev. Francis Partridge, D. D., Dean, April, 1895.
Rev. H. H. Gillies, B. A., Curate, June, 1900, June, 1901.
Rev. F. M. C. Badell, Curate, June, 1901, Nov. 1902.
Rev. Thos. W. Street, M. A., Sub-Dean, Dec. 1902.

The following is a list of the organists of the Cathedral during the last 50 years:

Rev. E. S. Medley, B. A., Mr. George Wolhaupter, Mr. E. Cadwallader, B. A. (for 21 years), Mr. F. C. D. Bristowe (for 18 years) Mr. F. H. Blair, Mr. E. C. Gibson, Mr. Hibbert Newton, Mus. Bac. Mr. W. D. Saunders, A. R. C. O., Mr. F. B. Powell.

(Miss Medley, Miss Thornton, Miss Garrison, Sir James Carter, Mr. Sutton Fenety, Mr. G. Roberts and Mr. Stanley S. Carman, played at various times).

The Vergers during the same period were: Mr. A. Welch, Mr. G. Bowles, Mr. W. Cadwallader, Mr. J. Coombes, Mr. T. Wandless.

The anniversary services will commence on Monday evening, August 31st. Evening prayer will be sung at 7.30, and the Lord Bishop of Fredericton will preach. On Tuesday there will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Bishop being celebrant. At 11 a. m. Holy Communion will be celebrated chorally, the Dean being celebrant.

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock choral evensong, the preacher being the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, whose eloquence is well known.

The offertories at all the services will be in aid of the restoration fund. The exterior of the Cathedral needs thorough overhauling, a work which will be somewhat costly, and it is confidently hoped that not only the church people of Fredericton and their friends, but the diocese at large, for which the Cathedral is held in trust, will respond to the appeal for funds. A considerable sum has already been subscribed, and there is no doubt that sufficient to defray all expense will be forthcoming.

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