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ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

*Continued from second page.)

was held in such high esteem, and was so venerated by his people, that they were anxious to keep intact the ties that bound them together, so to aid him during these last six years assistants had been employed, but for one reason and another there were four within the six years. When the last of the four, the Rev. S. Halley, left in 1874, Dr. Brooke asked to be relieved of all active duties, so a successor was sought. One was called, accepted and was inducted in April, 1876, but his services were not satisfactory, and by mutual consent he vacated the charge in April, 1878. This long transition period had been marked by such uncertainty and dissatisfaction that the congregation became unduly cautious about its next call, and it was only after Dr. Watters of St. John, came to Fredericton with reference to the matter, that definite action was promoted. Either upon his own initiative or as agent of the Presbytery, Dr. Watters pressed home upon the congregation the need of issuing a call promptly to some one, but preferably to Rev. A. J. Mowatt, then in charge of the congregation in Windsor, N. S. A satisfactory call was issued to the Rev. A. J. Mowatt, which he accepted, and he was solemnly inducted by the Presbytery of St. John on January 8th, 1880, as colleague and successor to Rev. John M. Brooke, D. D., into the pastoral charge of St. Paul's church.

MR. MOWATT'S INDUCTION.

Mr. Mowatt was inducted within the old kirk that stood where this building now stands, facing the same way. It was and is a plain building in exterior, but then it had a tower over which was a Scotch thistle that glistered in the sunshine, and cheered Scotsmen and women at all times when they saw it. In the tower was a bell cast in Scotland, that for 48 years had called the people to the house of prayer in sweet and enticing tones, and which has continued to do so in that tower and in this one during all the years since.

The interior of the old kirk was unique in appearance of pews and pulpit. The pews in the centre between the large pillars were long, about ten feet wide, narrow, about 2 1/2 feet; and high about 3 1/2 feet. The sides and ends were perpendicular. Because of this the seats seemed to be too narrow for comfort, though probably they were as wide as the seats in this church. There was a moulding all round the top of every pew that projected too far for the

comfort of many. Doors the full height of the pews closed in each one. These pews were great places for children to go to sleep in and be mischievous in, as I can testify by personal experience. My mother was not a kirk woman in Scotland, so sometimes we came here to hear Dr. Brooke. The ribbons and hair within my reach in front were too tempting for me to resist, so some folks suffered considerable annoyance until my mother took me out to the lobby and gave me a good old fashioned spanking, with a threat of a worse one when we got home if I did not behave myself, and after getting in the pew again, I did.

Next to the side walls there were rows of pews double the width of the centre pews, but not so long. Dimensions about 5 ft. by 8 ft., with seats upon three sides. Up stairs there were three rows of pews with aisles next to the walls, and cross aisles to give access to them. The gallery was reached by the front side doors; the organ and choir occupied the space over the centre door and lobby.

THE OLD PULPIT.

The most striking feature of the interior was the pulpit, which stood high enough to give the preacher and people in the gallery full and complete sight of one another. It is my impression there were thirteen steps for the minister to ascend to get into the pulpit, which was a rather small octagonal, with only room enough for one to occupy with comfort. Over the desk was a well proportioned sounding board, a pulpit attachment now rarely to be found in use on the continent. Under the pulpit desk there was projected landing and seat, which in olden times was occupied by the precentor, whose duty was to strike the tune and lead the singing. Mr. Alexander Mitchell, brother of our Mr. Robert Mitchell, was the last one to occupy the precentor's position under the pulpit. I have a boyish memory of a time, fifty-three years ago, when the gallery was full of soldiers of the Queen, the 72nd Highlanders, in their picturesque uniforms, with pipers in kilts, who were stationed here a year and a half, maybe two years. There are some living in our town who remember Sir Archibald Campbell, governor from about 1832, who worshipped in the old kirk in one of the square pews, embellished by the heraldry hanging on yonder wall. There is a tradition reprinted in an issue of the Maritime Farmer that Sir Archibald came to kirk preceded by his piper in full highland costume, but Mr. John Reid denies this, and says he came in his coach with the dignity and exclusiveness that became one who was a general in the army and governor of this province.

When Mr. Mowatt came here he was in the prime of his manhood, with a capacity for work and a willingness to do it. He proved to be genial, warm hearted, sympathetic in intercourse, tolerant in judgment of men's shortcomings, especially friendly with young people, loved by many and respected by everybody. Of his abilities as a preacher there were differences of opinion about him, as about every minister. The very scholarly and profound theologians did not set much store by his discourses, but the common people heard him gladly, for his sermons, couched in short Anglo-Saxon words and sentences, were easily grasped and followed. They inspiring, instructive, interesting, with presentations of persons and places, picturesque and dramatic in form, and read so well, that hearers were often influenced by strong emotional feeling at the time and stirred to activities in the life and work of the church, which they had not contemplated.

The congregation grew. At the first service of the communion, two months after Mr. Mowatt began work, 139 persons participated in the service, of whom twenty-six were new members, twelve received by certificate and fourteen by profession. During the two preceding years only two persons had united with the congregation, and they by certificate.

NEW CHURCH NEEDED.

The demand for pews and seats in 1881 was greater than the trustees could satisfactorily supply, the seating capacity in the old kirk being something under 600. The Sunday school that met in the room behind the audience room, increased considerably; classes overflowed into the main building and the expansion of attendance at the weekly prayer meetings was commensurate with that of the other stated services.

In the fall of 1881 it was needful to elect six additional elders, doubling the number of the work of that body. The new elders were ordained on the 13th of November, 1881, and on the 24th of the month at the first meeting of the session after the ordination service, all of its members were appointed to districts, and then proceeded to discuss the need of an enlarged or new church building. This resulted in a resolution being adopted to send an invitation to the Board of Trustees to meet in conference with the session about that particular matter. That conference occurred on Dec. 1st, 1881, and in the records I have found, over the signature of T. G. Loggie, secretary, that those present were as written:

Rev. Mr. Mowatt Mr. Johnston

Mr. Edwards Mr. Blair

Mr. Anderson Mr. W. Crockett

Mr. Gregory Mr. Ed. Jack

Mr. Howie Mr. J. Adams

Mr. Purdie Mr. McMurray

Six of those fourteen are now dead; two live elsewhere.

DEFINITE ACTION TAKEN.

Rev. Mr. Mowatt occupied the chair at this meeting, and explained its object. The matter was fully discussed by most of those present, after which it was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to:

"That the necessities of the congregation require the erection of a new church with as little delay as possible, and that a fund be at once established with the view of attaining the desired object, to be called the building fund."

Further Resolved, That a joint committee of the session and trustees be appointed to procure plans and to ascertain from some competent architect the probable cost of a neat, plain brick church, for the prospective as well as the present congregation. A building committee was then appointed consisting of Messrs. Johnston, Gregory, Hodge, Jack and Loggie. On Dec. 5th this committee met, discussed ways and means of proceeding, and finally empowered Mr. Johnston to make all possible preliminary inquiries with different architects towards the end desired. On Dec. 8th, Mr. J. C. Dumaresque, the selected architect, came up with me from St. John and showed the committee a sketch plan of a building estimated to seat 700 people. A bargain was made with him to go on with a set of plans suitable to submit to the congregation, with estimate of cost.

On Dec. 21st there was a joint meeting of the session and trustees, when the plans last asked for were submitted, but the consensus of opinion was against recommending them to the congregation, because mainly of the lack of sufficient seating capacity. So these plans were returned to the architect with a request for amended ones in accord with the larger ideas.

The death and burial of Dr. Brooke postponed action until Jan. 24th, 1882; then the session and trustees met again, when among other matters it was agreed to call a congregational meeting to be held Feb. 1st, to inspect the plans for the new church, and take such action as may be deemed best. This meeting was duly held and well attended. Hon. Senator Wark was made chairman, and Prof. Rivet, secretary. The Rev. Mr. Mowatt explained the object of the meeting; Mr. George F. Gregory showed the plans, when it was moved, seconded and agreed that the report of the joint committee of session and trustees, which recommended that a new edifice be erected, be adopted, as the views of this meeting. Also that a committee of three (with power to add to their number), consisting of Messrs. Johnston, Anderson and Inches, be appointed, to call upon the members and adherents of the church, and see how much will be subscribed towards a new edifice, and report to a congregational meeting a month hence, when definite action be taken.

On March 1st, 1882, that committee reported to the congregation, in substance that a satisfactory amount had been subscribed, and recommended: "That a building committee be appointed to go on with the work of building a new church, with instructions that their expenditures be limited to \$15,000, and that amount be considered sufficient unless further powers be afterwards given. That the committee procure plans from various architects, with cost of same before deciding, and that nine persons from the congregation be appointed to act with the Board of Trustees as a building committee. The meeting adopted the suggestions in accordance, but specifying the building to be built of stone with seating capacity for 800 adults, exclusive of choir, and so designed that 200 additional seats be obtainable if required, without an enlargement or extension of outer walls. It was also agreed the committee remove the present church to the rear of the lot on which it stands, facing York street, so that it may be used for public worship until the completion of the new building."

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The congregation then agreed that Hon. John J. Fraser, Hon. David Wark, Julius L. Inches, Alexander Calder, John Edwards, James S. Neill, Dr. J. A. McAllister, Edward Jack, Walter McFarlane, Leonard W. Johnston, with the Board of Trustees, in power from year to year constitute the building committee of St. Paul's church.

At the next regular annual meeting of the congregation, June 7th, 1882, the trustees elected were George F. Gregory, J. L. Inches, Hon. J. J. Fraser, J. S. Neill, Jas. Hodge, J. R. Howie, Dr. J. A. McAllister, J. Adams and A. Sanderson, and they with John Edwards, Wm. Anderson and L. W. Johnston, constituted the working committee until June, 1884, when Z. R. Everett was made a trustee, and joined the others. George F. Gregory was chairman, Julius L. Inches, vice chairman, L. W. Johnston secretary, and John Edwards was treasurer, until the end of April, 1885, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Frank B. Gregory. At this meeting, June 7th, 1882, the building committee submitted Mr. Dumaresque's final plans to the congregation, as approved by them. By the courteous aid of Mr. G. N. Babbitt, with his lime light apparatus, the details were more effectively out-

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Owing to faulty action of the kidneys and liver, the blood becomes filled with disease germs that imperil health. The first warning is a headache, dizziness, headache and lack of vital energy. Act quickly if you would avoid the terrible ravages of chronic kidney and liver complaint for all time. No medicine relieves so promptly, nothing in the world of medicine cures more thoroughly. For good blood, clear complexion, healthy appetite, the proper treatment is Dr. Hamilton's Pills. 25c. per box, at all dealers.

lined clear to all. The plans as adopted were practically for the edifice as it now stands, which you will find capable of seating 564 persons on this floor, and 456 in the gallery, provided no one takes up more than 18 inches of a seat. Our ideas as to capacity and cost increased as the meetings followed one another, and when the contract was let, it was at a figure above the maximum authorized, but no fault was found, so far as I know.

There is much that would be interesting to Kirk folks about the work of that committee from June 1882 to March 1886, how the old kirk was moved by Wm. Price of Woodstock, who found it a difficult job because of the heaviness of the frame; how the contract for erecting the new church was taken by contractor, Mr. Wm. Lawlor, of Chatham, with the more or less satisfactory relations that followed; of the mass of detail that had to be attended to by the building committee, even though relieved to some extent by the inspector, Mr. John Hodge; of the minor alterations made in the specifications of the pews and otherwise; of the financing problems that were met and solved, but the time will not permit as I know.

The general committee met very often, almost three times a month upon an average, but in May 1885, the chairman, vice chairman and secretary were made a special committee, with large powers which they tried to wisely exercise in carrying out the work until the end. Mr. Hodge and Mr. Howie were splendidly efficient in securing subscriptions to the building fund and were themselves two of the three highest contributors, Hon. J. J. Fraser being the third. Including his organ subscription, Mr. Hodge led all the rest, but the late Governor John J. Fraser, then Provincial Secretary had the credit of being the very first signer and for a thousand dollars, giving courage to many who followed and a prestige to the list which was of great value in the beginning. Mr. Neill, Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Jackson Adams and Mr. Everett who proved to be a great helper after joining the building committee, were given authority at various times to deal with special matters in which their technical and practical knowledge made their judgment to be the guide of the committee.

As a whole the committee worked together most harmoniously. There were only two matters that caused any discussion that even bordered upon acrimony. One was a minor matter; the other was as to the wisdom of contracting for an organ before the church was completed and means devised to pay for it.

The organ episode was a decidedly interesting one, a small minority of the Board of Trustees striving hard to invalidate an arrangement on which the congregation as a whole had set its approval. But Hook and Hastings built the organ and placed it where it stands ready to be used when the church was dedicated, and right well has it fulfilled its mission in competent hands from opening day until now.

So at last the end of the labors of the building committee drew near, and we have every reason to remember that the contractor was as happy as we were, for both he and we had been sorely tried during the last half of 1885. The children's sewing circle raised \$188.00 to pay for the pulpit furniture and it was in place. Invitations had been issued to the ministers who were to preach on the opening Sunday; to the Sunday school officials of the other city churches to join our afternoon Sunday school service on that day, and to many kind friends to come there to augment our choir. Mr. Mowatt had preached, asking us to place \$1,000.00 upon the plates in the new church upon the opening day, which request found more than adequate response, not only from kirk folks but from numerous friends belonging to other denominations, very many of

(Continued on sixth page.)

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6th January, 1906.

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