



Cathedral of St. Alban the Martyr,

TORONTO;

ITS

ORIGIN, PURPOSE, AND PRESENT POSITION.

A PASTORAL

FROM THE

LORD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE.

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1886.



The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of St. Alban the Martyr.

PROJECTED 1843.

INCORPORATED 1883.

DEAN :

THE RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF TORONTO.

CHAPTER :

THE VEN. THE ARCHDEACON OF PETERBOROUGH.

THE VEN. THE ARCHDEACON OF YORK.

THE REV. CANON BRENT, M.A.

THE REV. CANON SCADDING, D.D.

THE REV. CANON STENNETT, M.A.

THE REV. CANON O'MEARA, LL.D.

THE REV. CANON DUMOULIN, M.A.

THE REV. CANON OSLER.

THE REV. CANON MORGAN.

THE REV. CANON TREMAYNE, M.A.

THE HON. E. BLAKE, Q.C., M.P.,
Chancellor of the Diocese,

R. SNELLING, ESQ., LL.D., Q.C.,
Registrar of the Diocese,

} *Ex officio.*

THE HON. GEORGE W. ALLAN, Senator.

HIS HONOUR JUDGE BENSON.

ROBERT H. BETHUNE, ESQ.

EDWARD M. CHADWICK, ESQ.

JAMES HENDERSON, ESQ.

JOHN CARTER, ESQ.

JOHN R. CARTWRIGHT, ESQ.

MAJOR EDWARD H. FOSTER.

} *Elected by the Lay
Members of the
Synod :*

} *Elected by the Clerical Members
of the Synod :*

MEMBERS DECEASED :

HON. CHIEF JUSTICE SPRAGGE.

REV. CANON RITCHIE.

TO THE FAITHFUL CLERGY AND LAITY
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE
DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN :—

A Cathedral Establishment for the Diocese of Toronto has been for many years in contemplation, but although the project has been, at different times, brought before the Church through the late Church Society and the Synod, it is only of recent years that it has begun to take definite shape.

Your Venerated Diocesan, the First Bishop of Toronto, the Father of the Church in this Province, evidently gave to this question much consideration ; for in the year 1843, amongst other generous gifts to various Church objects, he donated for a Cathedral Establishment four hundred acres of land, consisting of the east half of lot No. 4, in the 8th concession of Seymour ; lot 21, in the 8th concession of Plantagenet ; and the west half of lot 5, in the 11th concession of Belmont.

The rents derived from these lands, and the proceeds of sales, have formed the Cathedral Establishment Fund which has appeared for many years in the Church Society and Synod Reports.

In 1853, attention was directed to the subject by the republication by the Church Society of a Pastoral Letter on the subject of Church organization and

extension issued by Bishop Strachan eleven years previously, in which a Cathedral Establishment was referred to, and the true Cathedral idea and purpose suggested.

In 1861, on the motion of Mr. S. B. Harman, a Committee was appointed to report regarding the formation of a full Cathedral staff.

In the years from 1867 to 1873, special Committees were appointed by Synod, from time to time, to consider the question of erecting a Synod House in connection with St. James' as representing the Cathedral of the Diocese; and various reports were presented to the Synod.

Of these it is interesting and suggestive to read the Report presented in 1872 by the Committee on a Memorial to the late Bishop Strachan, and the resolution of the Synod upon it.

The Committee recommended—"That the most appropriate mode of carrying into effect an object in which all the members of the Church in this Diocese, both Lay and Clerical, may justly claim a common and equal interest, is the purchase of a site within the city of Toronto, containing from one to two acres, situated in a position regarded as being, in view of the probable future extension of the city, central and desirable, for the purpose of erecting thereon the following buildings, in the order in which they are enumerated :

"I. A Church or Chapel, to be under the immediate direction of the Bishop of the Diocese, for the cele-

bration of daily Cathedral service, and for such other special purpose as may appear to the Bishop from time to time expedient; the dimensions of such Church or Chapel to be determined with a view to its being available at all seasons of the year, for the daily services of the Church.

“2. A Synod Hall and offices, whereby the Church will be relieved from the burden imposed upon it the necessity of renting a Synod office.

“3. An Episcopal Residence or See-House, an object in itself most desirable.

“According to the census of 1861, the members of the Church in this Diocese* amounted to about 138,000; and, assuming their numbers to be no larger than this at the present time, a contribution averaging fifty cents each for every member of the Church, to be raised by two equal annual instalments, would go very far towards the accomplishment of the object proposed.”

The following resolutions were thereupon passed by the Synod:

“1. That the Synod pledges itself to use its best endeavours to carry out the proposals in the report which has just been adopted, by raising within each Parish or Mission in the Diocese, by two yearly instalments, a sum averaging fifty cents for every member of the Church within that Parish or Mission, according to the census of 1871.

*Previous to its subdivision and reduction to present limits.

“ 2. That the Clergyman, Lay Representatives, and Churchwardens of each Parish do constitute themselves a Committee to collect the sum of fifty cents for each member of our Church according to the census of 1871, for the purpose of raising the buildings proposed as a memorial to the late Bishop Strachan.”

This was one of the good resolutions of the Synod which bore no fruit. Nothing more is heard of the subject until, in 1881, I addressed the Synod at some length on the revival of the Cathedral System, laying particular stress upon what is its chief feature of practical usefulness in the position and needs of our modern Colonial Church,—not so much a costly structure with ornate services, as the organization of a body of efficient Canons to act as an Advisory Council to the Bishop, and to devote themselves to the missionary and educational interests of the Diocese.

The views which I propounded were approved by resolution of the Synod, and the Executive Committee were directed to take steps to secure the desired result.

The Cathedral Chapter was incorporated in 1883 by Act of the Provincial Legislature, one of the special features of the scheme, adapting it to the situation of the Colonial Church, being the election of Lay members of the Chapter by vote of the Synod, and the appointment as members *ex officio* of the two principal Lay Officers of the Diocese.

The Incorporated Chapter have held frequent meetings. At the first, both by the Executive Committee

of the Synod and by the Chapter, attempts were made to secure for the establishment a Home in some one of the existing city Churches; but difficulties presented themselves which were found to be insurmountable, prominent among these being the parochial organizations, parochial interests, and proprietary pews. It thus became necessary to seek an independent site for the erection of Cathedral and other Diocesan buildings, which should be of sufficient size for all future requirements. After many negotiations, such a site was finally secured in December, 1884, from the proprietors of the St. Alban's Park Estate. It consists of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the purchase price was \$10,488.

A necessary feature in the Cathedral scheme was felt to be the residence of the Bishop within the Cathedral precincts; indeed, the only way in which it is to be naturally expected that the work of the Cathedral should take shape and develop is by starting from the spot where the Bishop is established, as a centre, and gradually grouping its various forces and agencies round that nucleus. This consideration led the Chapter at an early stage to open negotiations with the See-House Committee. Their overtures were courteously received by these gentlemen, whose cordial co-operation resulted in the transfer by the Chapter, by way of contribution to the See-House Fund, of a portion of the Cathedral Close, consisting of two frontages of 100 feet each, with a depth between of 300 feet. This lot has been deeded to the Synod, and the See-House has been erected upon it.

The property thus acquired by the chapter for the purposes of the Church in perpetuity is, at present, outside the limits of the City. Its situation is about 1,150 feet north of Bloor street, between Albany and Howland Avenues, which are the continuation of Lippincott and Borden streets. But it was wholly impossible, at this late date, to procure a lot of land of suitable extent, within the city limits, except at a cost which it would have been useless for the Chapter to contemplate. And whilst the present site is very nearly in the centre of the present map of the City of Toronto, with its suburbs, as regards East and West, and not far from the centre North and South, there is every indication that before many years, this neighbourhood, which has been lately constituted by a by-law of the Township "the District of St. Alban's," will be completely built up. In the adjoining part of the City, already pretty well filled up, there are, as I am informed, no less than two hundred houses in course of construction at the present time. The character of the immediate surroundings is secured by the terms of the stringent building conditions imposed by the deeds of sale.

I have already referred to my disclaimer of a desire to push on, as the first or chief object to be aimed at, the erection of the Cathedral Church. The order which I advocate is, *first* the organization of a Cathedral Staff and Diocesan Missionary Work fairly set agoing; and *then* the building, as it is needed. And having once secured all the land wanted for future

operations, the Chapter would probably have been content to rest there, had not a strong inducement been held out to them to make a commencement of building.

The St. Alban's Park Syndicate, who most generously donated to the Chapter one-half of the purchase money of the site, made a further offer of \$2,000 on the condition that the Choir and Chancel of the Church were commenced before the 23rd of August last, and roofed in before the end of the present year. The Chapter considered that they were not justified in throwing away this valuable offer, by failing to comply with the first part of the conditions: accordingly, on the 20th of August last, I had the pleasure of turning the first sod of the excavation for the Cathedral building; and the walls of the crypt of the Choir and Chancel have been since built.

Whilst this work was in progress, the Chapter received an urgent request from a congregation, who have for some time past been meeting in a room over the driving-shed of a tavern at the corner of St. Alban's Park, for leave to use this crypt for worship; and the syndicate, having expressed themselves satisfied with the *bona fides* of the Chapter and made over to them the equivalent of their promised contribution, it was determined to finish the crypt in a plain way, suitable for the conduct of worship, and roof it in. An unfortunate accident, however, to the contractor for the roof has prevented this from being carried out so soon as had been arranged, and

it has therefore been resolved by the Chapter to make the effort to carry up the walls and complete this part of the building.

It is for this that I now appeal to you for assistance. The work hitherto done has cost about \$4,000 and is of the most excellent and durable character. Apart from the donation of the syndicate, the expense has been chiefly borne by the subscriptions of individual members of the Chapter and a few friends. I have made no appeal to the Church generally. The time seems, however, to have come when I may fairly call upon you to assist in raising the comparatively small sum needed to complete as much of the future Cathedral as will serve all purposes for some years to come.

The estimate for the completion of the chancel and choir, including choir-aisles, is \$21,000.

The work will be of stone, and the design in every way worthy of a Cathedral of the Church of England.

I feel the more confidence in making this appeal from the conviction that the duty of the Church to extend her ministrations in proportion to the growth of population requires that Church accommodation should be speedily provided for this rapidly growing district, and \$21,000 is by no means an extravagant sum to ask for such a purpose.

The proposed building will be 90 feet in length, with a width of 34 feet, exclusive of side aisles, providing ample accommodation for some time to come, and sufficient for all uses of a Diocesan character.

But it is on more general grounds that I invite you as members of our Church to take your share in this grand enterprise ; the Cathedral is not a Parish Church ; it has more than local interest and claims. It is the Spiritual Home of the whole Diocese. What the Church is to the Parish, the Cathedral is to the Diocese—the centre of religious life and activity. Every member of the Church, wherever his customary residence may be, should feel, when he comes to the See-City, that there is a sanctuary there to which he has a right as the common heritage of all the sons of the Church.

Whilst asking you thus to enable us to carry out the design of completing what, for all intents and purposes, will serve as the present Cathedral of the Diocese, I would not forget that there are other even more important objects for which the Chapter need the contributions of all earnest well-wishers to the Church. Chiefly the creation of an endowment fund for two or more Missionary Canonries. In the conditions under which our work has to be done as a Colonial Church, no agency is more urgently needed than a staff of experienced, devout, and spiritually minded men, free to go, under the directions of the Bishop, to any Parish or Mission where counsel or assistance is required. And there are no other means for the maintenance of such a staff than the provision of a permanent endowment by donations in land or money, or of income by annual subscriptions.

Another object which should commend itself to the special interest of the Church is the establishment and maintenance of a free school, primarily for the benefit of the sons of our Missionary Clergy, but also of Choir boys to be trained for the service of the Cathedral, and, when found to possess the necessary qualifications, for the ministry of the Church.

For these several objects, so deeply touching the highest interests of our Church, I earnestly ask your sympathy and most liberal contributions; which may be given to one or other of them as they commend themselves most to your judgment.

For the completion of the building, it has been thought desirable to ask for annual subscriptions extending over five years; for the endowment of Missionary Canonries and the maintenance of the Choir-School, either annual subscriptions for maintenance, or donations in land or in money for investment.

Subscriptions and donations will be received and acknowledged by myself, or by Mr. Robert H. Bethune, Manager of the Dominion Bank, the Treasurer of the Chapter.

Commending this appeal to your candid and favourable consideration,

I am, Reverend and Dear Brethren,
Your faithful Friend and Bishop,

ARTHUR TORONTO.

Toronto, April, 1886.

NOTES.

In order to give an opportunity to those who wish to become identified in an enduring manner with this work, a suggestion has been made that the bays, thirteen in number, of which the Choir and Chancel are to consist, should be assigned separately to be built by individuals, families, corporations or the like, and named appropriately. One has been already so set apart, and the money for its erection has been subscribed. A sum of \$1,500, (payable in instalments extending over five years), or land to the value of \$2,000, would be sufficient to secure one of these bays.

It may be well to direct the attention of members of the Church in this Diocese, to the fact that the Americans, a people pre-eminently practical, and among whom the position of the Church is very much as it is in this country, have found it to their advantage to adopt the Cathedral system on lines similar to those we are trying to adopt. This may help to counteract in some degree an impression which unfortunately prevails widely, that a Cathedral is little else than a place of honourable retirement for aged Clergy.

It may, perhaps also be of interest to mention that a Cathedral is in course of erection in Albany, N. Y., of dimensions nearly the same as those of the projected Cathedral of St. Alban's, according to the lines already laid down, and acted upon so far as the Chancel and Choir extend. Upon the building we refer to, there has been

expended some \$100,000, exclusive of the site, which cost \$80,000, and \$550,000 more will be required to finish it. St. Alban's, will compare very favourably with this ; for the designs which have been prepared for the Choir and Chancel, and proposed for the future completed building, are quite equal in dignity and grandeur to the Albany Cathedral, and can be carried into effect for one-third of the cost ; as we ascertain by the tenders made for the portion of the work which we at present contemplate, and which we are confident can and will be done in a manner creditable to the Diocese for a total of \$25,000, including expenditure already made.

The donations and subscriptions received up to the present time, including the donations of the proprietors of St. Alban's Park, amount to about \$11,000.



CATHEDRAL OF ST. ALBAN'S.