

REPORT,

Of the Proceedings of the Meeting held at St. James' Church, 10th January, 1831.

At a Meeting of the Pew-holders and Congregation of St. James' Church in York, held at the Church, on Monday the tenth day of January 1831, pursuant to a notice of the Church Warden in that behalf, which was very numerous attended.

The Venerable the ARCHDEACON OF YORK was called to the Chair, and Mr. C. Gamble appointed Secretary.

The Chairman opened the meeting by reading the following notice from the Church Warden:—

“The Pew-holders and Congregation of St. James' Church are requested to meet at the Church on Monday next, at one o'clock P.M. to take into consideration a Communication from HIS EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR enclosing a letter to him from the Chaplain of the Forces in York, on the subject of a new Church.

“As the communication is of great consequence to the Congregation generally, a full meeting is earnestly desired.”

S. WASHBURN,
Church Warden.

“3rd January, 1831.”

Also, a communication from HIS EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR as follows:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
1st January, 1831.

Sir,

“I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to transmit to you a copy of a letter which he has received from the Chaplain to the Forces stationed at York, and to acquaint you, that His Excellency requests that his statement may be taken into the consideration of the Congregation of St. James'. And that he cannot recommend a Chapel to be erected exclusively for the Military, but he is of opinion that it is desirable to build one for the accommodation of the Inhabitants at the West end of the Town, as well as for the Military.”

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Humble Servant,

Z. MUDGE,
Sec'y.

The HON. & VENERABLE,
The ARCHDEACON OF YORK,
&c. &c. &c.

(COPY)

York, U. Canada,
December 31st, 1830.

“Sir,

“Having been informed by Your Excellency that a sum of money has been granted by His Majesty's Government in aid of erecting a new Church at this Post, in which accommodation is to be provided for the garrison, and having heard that it is intended to erect it near the old one, I feel it my duty to represent to your Excellency the very great inconvenience to which the Troops are exposed in having to march so far to the place of worship, particularly when the weather and roads are so unfavorable during a greater part of the year in this Country, the distance from the Barracks to the Church being two miles.

“It can scarcely be necessary to call Your Excellency's attention further to a subject with which you are already so well acquainted; but I may mention the circumstance, that during the month of June last, the roads were in such a state as to prevent the Troops from attending Church for four successive Sundays.

“In making this representation, and with a view to remedy the inconvenience before stated, I beg to suggest the propriety of erecting a Chapel on the Government reserve for the accommodation of the Troops.

“In reference to the observation contained in Sir George Murray's despatch on this subject, that no grant should be appropriated to the erection of a Church exclusively for the use of the Military, I would beg leave to mention, that the Chapel alluded to might be made a Chapel of Ease under the Church in York and with the exception of the usual Military Service, all other Service performed therein to be regulated by the Archdeacon of York, and thus rendered useful to

"the Inhabitants who reside in the vicinity of the Garrison, and who are at present subject to the same inconvenience as the Military."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
MAJOR GENERAL,
SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Your Most Obedient Servant,

J. HUDSON,
Chaplain to the Forces.

Some reference having been made to the Petition to His Majesty's Government praying for aid in the erection of the new Church in York. (*see appendix.*) The Chairman explained the tenor of the said Petition, and read the reply of His Majesty's Government thereto as follows:—

Government House,
29th November, 1830.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acquaint you, as first signer of a Memorial of the Congregation of St. James' Church, that His Majesty's Government has consented that a donation of one thousand pounds should be made towards the expense of building a new Church at York, on condition that accommodation should be permanently provided for His Majesty's Troops. I am desired to forward the enclosed letter from Mr. Stewart on this subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed't. Humble Servant,

S. WASHBURN ESQ.

Z. MUDGE,

Treasury Chambers,

14th September, 1830.

Sir,

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have had under their consideration your letter of 17th July 1830, enclosing a Memorial from the Parishioners of St. James', York Upper Canada, for assistance to erect a new Church for the Military. And I am to request that you will acquaint Sir George Murray, that my Lords concur in his recommendation, that a donation of one thousand pounds should be granted in aid of building this Church, on the condition suggested by him, whenever there may be Provincial Funds to that amount at the disposal of His Majesty.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

R. W. HAY, Esq. &c.

J. STEWART.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Congregation of St. James' Church, (for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity of erecting a new Church) being called for, were read by the Chairman as follows:—

"At a meeting of the Pew-holders of St. James' Church, and persons wishing to obtain Pews, to take into consideration the building of a new Church, held in the Court House on the 20th December, 1830.—It was Resolved—

First. "That the reserved Pew Rent in the projected new Church be fixed at the present meeting.

Second. "That the reserved Pew Rent of any single pew in the new Church be Six Dollars per annum, and that this rent be not reduced while the Church is in debt.

Third. "That the Pew-holders of the present Church, if they demand the same, be credited one third of the price of the Pews that they purchase in the new Church, not exceeding in number those which they possessed in the old Church.

Fourth. "That no person be entitled to the privilege granted by the last resolution who shall not have paid up the whole purchase money of his Pew in the old Church.

Fifth. "That a Committee of fifteen Gentlemen be appointed to take the necessary measures for erecting the Church, and that the following be the members:—

The Hon. Chief Justice Robinson,

" George Crookshank,

" John H. Dunn,

" William Allan,

" Mr. Justice Macaulay,

Charles C. Small Esq.

Alexander Wood, Esq.

Attorney General Boulton,

D'Arcy Boulton Esq.

George Monro Esq.

William Proudfoot Esq.

F. T. Billings Esq.

Dr. Burnside,

Simon Washburn Esq.

Archdeacon Strachan.

Sixth, "That the Building Committee consist of the following five Members:—
 "D'Arcy Boulton, James G. Chewett, Robert Stanton, W. Draper Esquires, and
 "Mr. George Duggan.

Seventh, "That the Building Committee be expected to procure plans and estimates in detail, including all expenses in completing the Church; and that they submit the same in the first instance to the larger Committee, in order that the latter may bring the same before a meeting of the Parishioners with their proposed plan for covering the necessary expenditure. It being further understood, that no contract shall be made or engagement entered into, which shall not have received the previous sanction of a majority of the larger Committee expressed in writing.

Eighth, "That the Church, exclusive of the Steeple or Tower, which may at present be carried only a little above the roof, shall not exceed the sum of Five Thousand Pounds.

Ninth, "That the present Church remain as it is till the new one is finished.

Tenth, "That after the new Church is completed the materials of the present one to be sold to the highest bidder, and the proceeds of the same be applied to the liquidation of any debt that may be contracted in erecting the new Church or furnishing the same.

Eleventh, "That the upset price of the Pews in the new Church be twenty-five pounds, Currency.

Twelfth, "That the Church and surplus rents, after paying the necessary annual expenses, be placed at the disposal of the Committee of fifteen, till the debts be all paid.

Thirteenth, "That the breadth of the Church be not less than seventy-four feet in the clear."

After which, a general discussion as to the expediency and propriety of building a Chapel of Ease in the West end of the Town, took place, and the following Resolutions were put:—

First, That the erection of a new Parish Church is an object of paramount importance, and should be carried into effect before the building of any other Church or Chapel of Ease is undertaken.

It was moved in amendment—That considering the goodness of the present Church, it be repaired, and not pulled down,—which Resolution being put, was lost. After which, the original motion was put, and carried.—After some conversation, the following representation was submitted and adopted:—

The Congregation of St. James' Church having taken into their consideration the Communication of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with a statement made by the Rev. Joseph Hudson, Chaplain to the Forces.

Most respectfully represent—

That nearly seventy families, most of whom reside near the present Church, can find no Pews either to Purchase or Lease, and are therefore in a great measure excluded from the benefit of a regular attendance on Divine Worship.

That from the want of free sittings, a much greater number of poor persons in the neighbourhood of the Church are also deprived of the opportunity of attending Divine Service.

That a regard for the spiritual welfare of so many of their fellow Christians, and the impossibility of enlarging the present Church, which is also in a state of decay, imperiously calls for a new Church of very considerable dimensions.

That the resources at the command of the present Pew holders, and those who are anxious to become Members of the Congregation, notwithstanding the munificent donation of One Thousand Pounds from His Majesty's Government, will not be sufficient without great sacrifices on their part, to build at the present time one good Church.

That under these circumstances the Congregation of St. James's Church hope, that His Excellency will not deem it a peculiar hardship, if the consideration of the request of the Chaplain to the Forces, for the erection of a Chapel of Ease at the West end of the Town, with accommodation for the Troops should be delayed for a few years, when the increased population may require the erection of such a Building; when it is stated, that the Troops have for more than thirty years attended Divine Service in St. James Church, without having complained of its being an inconvenience, and when it is recollected, that Soldiers belonging to other denominations have farther to go to Divine Service.

The Congregation of St. James' Church embrace this opportunity of expressing their grateful thanks to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for recommending their Petition to the favorable consideration of His Majesty's Government, and the munificent donation of one thousand pounds, which was the happy result.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Which being read, it was moved—

Second, That the representation be adopted—and was carried without opposition. Also,—That the representation adopted at this present Meeting be communicated by the Church Warden for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.—Which was put and carried.

It was then moved—

Third, That the Congregation of St. James' Church do Address His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and request him to exercise the power vested in him by Law to erect a Parish, comprehending the present Church of St. James' in York.—It was moved in amendment—That the consideration of this last Resolution be deferred till Easter Monday—Which was put and carried.

Fourth, That the proceedings of this Meeting, and also the proceedings of the former Meeting on the subject of building a new Church, be printed—Which was put and carried.

That the Meeting do now adjourn—Carried.

10th January, 1831.

APPENDIX.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, *Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.*

The Parishioners and Pew-holders of St. James' Church, in the Town of York, most respectfully represent :—

That in consequence of the state of decay into which the Parish Church of St. James is falling, and the smallness of its dimensions, many respectable families being unable to procure Pews, and the poorer Inhabitants being almost entirely excluded, it has become necessary, without farther delay, to undertake the construction of a new Edifice.

That in erecting a new Church, besides providing for the poorer Inhabitants, and meeting the growing population, accommodation is required for such of the Masters and Students of the Public Seminaries as belong to the Established Church, and likewise for the Children belonging to the National and Sunday Schools. These with suitable Pews for His Majesty's Representative ; the Legislature ; the Judges and Military, will require a building of very considerable dimensions.

That though your Excellency's Petitioners are disposed to contribute liberally towards the erection of such a Church, of solid and durable materials, as may be respectable in size and appearance, ornamental to the Town, and worthy of the venerable Establishment to which they feel a just pride to belong, yet they fear their inability to finish it without some assistance, as its estimated cost amounts to nearly seven thousand pounds, though a plain Brick Building is only contemplated.—They therefore most respectfully submit the matter to the favorable consideration of your Excellency as Commander of the Forces, in the hope, that through your Excellency's gracious interposition some additional means may be obtained from some Public Fund ; and in making this humble appeal they consider it incumbent on them to state the reasons by which they are actuated on the occasion.

From the time when the old Church of St. James was first erected to the present period, His Majesty's Forces quartered at this Post have always been allowed free use of the Building for the purpose of Public Devotion. During the late War it was, from necessity, used as an Hospital, and so much damaged that the Parishioners were forced to repair and enlarge it at a great expense, but being a wooden Structure, and badly finished, owing to the difficulty of finding at that time competent workmen and good materials, it has already fallen into a state of delapidation.

In planning the new Church and providing sufficient space for public purposes, all of which are necessary at the seat of Government, an Edifice of much greater dimensions is required than would be sufficient to accommodate the present Parishioners, by which perhaps one third or more will be added to its cost.

Under these circumstances, and understanding also that in similar cases the Churches at Quebec, Montreal, and Kingston, have been assisted by Government ; the Parishioners and Inhabitants of York would fain indulge in the hope that its liberality may also, through the gracious influence of your Excellency, be extended to their undertaking.

York, 24th April, 1830.

R. STANTON, PRINTER.