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EXTRACT FROM
THE NIAGARA GAZETTE
OF
NOVEMBER 10, 1880

CONSECRATION OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The new and beautiful St. Peter's P.E. church edifice on the corner of Union and Second streets was solemnly consecrated to divine worship last Thursday. The services were conducted by the Rt. Rev. A. Cleveland Coxe, Bishop of Western New York, assisted by the following clergy: the Rev. Geo. Herbert Patterson, President of DeVeaux College; the Rev. A. Sidney Dealey, rector of Christ Church, Buffalo; the Rev. Dr. VanBokelen, rector of Trinity Church, Buffalo; the Rev. Dr. Edward Ingersoll, rector emeritus of Trinity Church, Buffalo; the Rev. Dr. Ely, rector of Grace Church, Lockport; the Rev. Walter North, rector of St. Luke's Church, Buffalo; the Rev. T. Ralston Smith, pastor of Westminster Church, Buffalo; the Rev. L.B. VanDyke and the Rev. Mr. Knapp. of the same city; the Rev. Dr. Clark, of Syracuse, formerly rector of St. Peter's parish of this place; the Rev. Dr. Howard, of Bath; the Rev. Mr. Southwell, of Lockport; the Rev. Mr. Ingalls. of Drummondville, Ont.; the Rev. Canon Houston, of Clifton, Ont.; the Rev. Mr. Fessenden, of Chippawa, Ont.; the Rev. Warren W. Walsh, rector of Trinity Church, Rochester, and the rector of the church of Niagara Falls, the Rev. Mr. Wolseley.

The Bishop and clergy proceeded from the chapel to the main entrance of the church where they were met by the wardens and vestrymen of the parish. The certificate setting forth that the church was free from incumbrance was read by Warden Stoughton Pettebone. The request to consecrate was then delivered by the rector, the Rev. Mr. Wolseley. The Bishop, followed by the clergy, wardens and vestrymen then proceeded up the main aisle of the nave reciting the 24th Psalm. After entering the chancel the sentence of consecration was read by the Rev. L.B. VanDyke. Morning prayer was said by the Rev. George H. Patterson and the Rev. A. Sidney Dealey. The lessons were read by the Rev. Dr. Ingersoll and the Rev. Dr. Clark. The Bishop officiated in the communion service and consecrated the elements, the decalogue being read by the Rev. Dr. Howard. The Epistle was read by the rector of the parish and the Holy Gospel by the Bishop. The Rev. W.W. Walsh recited the offertory sentences. The offertory, which amounted to \$45.25, was presented by the Bishop. The Rev. Mr. Southwell read the first exhortation in the communion office. The Sacrement was administered to the clergy by the Bishop, assisted by the rector, and to the congregation by the Rev. Mr. Ingalls, the Rev. Mr. Fessenden, the Rev. Canon Houston, and the Rev. Dr. Clark.

The Bishop delivered the consecration sermon, taking for his text the fourteenth verse of the thirteenth chapter of Nehemiah: "Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof." In the course of the sermon, which was a very able and interesting discourse, the Bishop took occasion to compliment the members of the parish for having according to the measure of their ability erected a most beautiful and magnificent token of their reverence for God's Word and his Holy Name, and to remind them that while they had done nobly, yet it remained for them to continue their zeal and efforts in the building up of spiritual walls with living stones - the souls of regenerate men.

The musical portions of the service were rendered by the chorus choir of the church under the direction of chorister Geo. H. Howard.

The corner stone of the present beautiful church structure—which has cost upwards of \$47,000—was laid in 1873. The style of the building is gothic and has been constructed in accordance with designs and specifications furnished by Henry Dudley, the well-known New York architect, and is the one hundred and thirtieth church built by Messrs. David Phillips and William Shepard, and the interior decoration is the work of P.C. Flynn. The principal dimensions of the church area as follows: Nave, 90 x 40 feet; chancel, 25 x 20 feet; organ chamber, 16 feet square; chapel, 20 x 45 feet. The vestry room is opposite the organ chamber, on the right, and connects the chancel and the chapel on the northwest corner, and the Sunday School library room is located in the angle between the church and the chapel. The handsome tower stands at the south-east corner of the main structure, and its architecture is in pleasing contrast with the prevailing style of church steeples. The windows in the church are furnished with stained glass, the rose window and the memorial windows being especially handsome. The rose window in the south end of the church is the gift of the children of the parish Sunday school, and has for its center a figurative representation of Christ blessing little children. The main chancel window was presented by Mr. Francis R. Delano, and bears this inscription: "To the Glory of God and the memory of my mother." It is in three sections and represents the Ascension with the figures of St. Peter and St. Paul on either side. The side windows of the chancel were presented by Mrs. Stoughton Pettebone, one bearing the emblem of a chalice and the other a cross and crown. In the nave is a memorial window to the late Judge DeVeaux, the first warden of the parish, and is the gift of the trustees, masters and cadets of DeVeaux College. The design is emblematic of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Another window, representing a sheaf of wheat, a sickle, and a cluster of grapes, has been placed to the memory of Mrs. Lydia S. Athearn. Three angel faces in another memorial window in the south of the nave recall three angel children of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Holley. Adjoining this is a window bearing lilies of the field, a tribute to the memory of a little son of Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Wheeler. The window next to that in memory of the late Judge DeVeaux is a memorial to the late Miss Elizabeth L. Porter and bears the figures of the Mater Dolorosa and St. Peter.

The chancel has been beautifully adorned and the alter richly decorated. The altar ornaments—a handsome brass cross, deftly chased, brass vases, an altar desk and a dosel cloth—were presented by Mrs. William Strudy and Mr. Joseph W. Sturdy. A beautifully wrought brass eagle lectern is a present from the young ladies of the church. The chancel furniture is black walnut, and was made by the Messrs. Rusch, of Buffalo. The organ has been considerably enlarged, has been revoiced and thoroughly repaired by its builder, Mr. House, of Buffalo, and has also been repainted and decorated by P.C. Flynn, of Niagara Falls. That annoying nuisance to an organist—an organ boy—has been dispensed with and a four horse power motor substituted in his place. A contribution from an anonymous member of the congregation is in the shape of the following illuminated text over the chancel arch: "The Lord is in His Holy Temple." The floor of the church has been covered by the ladies of the parish with a handsome carpet at a cost of some \$500. The nave is to be lighted with ten coronae, of six jets each, manufactured by Messrs. Mitchell, Vance and Co., of New York. These ornamental fixtures arrived last Thursday, but were in such a damaged condition as to require re-shipment for repairs before they can be erected in position. The coronae are the gift of the same liberal churchman who contributed the chancel windows—Mr. Francis R. Delano. The building committee under whose supervision the church building was erected consists of Mr. D.J. Townsend, chairman, and Messrs. Solon Whitney and D.R. Jerauld.

It was intended to hold an evening service on the day of dedication, but the disappointment experienced in securing suitable lighting apparatus not only rendered it necessary to abandon the proposed service for that evening but also the regular Sunday evening service for several weeks to come.

A largely attended reception to Bishop Coxe was given in the evening at the residence of D.J. Townsend of Buffalo.