

possession of the church to this very day. The total cost of the ceremony was \$34, of which \$22 was the cost of the trowel!

Mr. Somerville delivered a rousing address extolling the virtues of the Masonic Order and praising the recent decision by the House of Lords and Privy Council which placed the Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians in an equal position in the colonies. This act, Somerville rightly concluded, would dissipate strife and foster love among congregations. With fervent and impassioned oratory, he urged his countrymen that if any had forgotten the church of their fathers, they would now return as doves to the window. Chief Justice Needham also spoke and, while regretting not being a Mason or a member of the church, rejoiced in being in the presence of so many of his countrymen and in his concluding remarks wished the minister, managers and congregation of the Scottish Church God-Speed in their efforts establishing the Presbyterian faith on the rocky shores of this western colony.

Meanwhile, construction proceeded smoothly so that by September 9, 1868 *The British Colonist* was able to report that already a good idea might be formed of the fine proportions of the edifice. The brickwork was executed by Messrs. Kinsmen and Styles, with the plasterwork ably carried out by a Mr. McKay. Progress was swift, despite the proverbial dispute over financing, and by October 15, 1868, the front of the church was complete except for the positioning of the window which was purported to be the "finest church window on the coast... none even in San Francisco to vie with it."⁶ It is to be remembered that intense commercial and cultural rivalry existed between San Francisco and Victoria at this time.

In those early days, methods of raising monies were much more inventive than now. Soirees were held to assist the building fund. The preparation and enjoyable times were due to the ladies of the congregation who laboured many hours to provide a sumptuous and gay time for all. Tickets for these gala affairs were not confined to Presbyterians but were purchased by members of the community at large.

Upon completion of the church, it was attacked from an unexpected quarter. Victoria architect E. Mallandaine unleashed a vituperative broadside against the architectural statement of the church. Mallandaine considered it to be "in the rudest travesty of gothic certainly calculated to kill George Gilbert Scott."⁷ Sir

George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878) was the son of a clergyman and the leading proponent of the Gothic style for secular as well as clerical structures. Mallandaine maintained that among the non-Gothic features were the entrance door and the rear window. He considered the price of \$11,000 to be much too high and that price "judiciously laid out would have produced a substantial and respectable building... less pretentious and more architecture (sic)."⁸ The reaction of architect Tiedemann and the congregation of St. Andrew's is not recorded. Possibly, they considered it a matter of professional pique on Mallandaine's part and ignored it.

The dedication date was announced for April 4, 1869. In the interim, a new melodeon arrived from San Francisco in the barkentine *Free Trade*. It was said to possess a remarkably fine tune and was immediately put in place. The melodeon cost \$380 and was admitted duty free due to the good offices of Governor Seymour.

In those early days, it was customary to rent pews, a practice discontinued when the present Kirk was erected. Pews were taken rapidly in view of the imminent dedication, and the impending event highlighted the social columns of the day.

At the dedication, Mr. Somerville was assisted by the Reverend William Aitken of the First Presbyterian Church and Reverend Dr. Lindsley of Portland, Oregon. The presence of Mr. Aitken would seem to suggest the schism of 1866 had been in some degree laid to rest. In a series of enthusiastic sermons, all three ministers praised the new church. Dr. Lindsley evoked the memory of John Knox and praised his descendants, whose forefathers had worshipped in secret and often in fear, for erecting such a "noble temple... and in dedicating it to the service of God."⁹

Soon, following completion of the church, Reverend Somerville obtained permission for a journey to Scotland in order to solicit funds for the purpose of eradicating the remaining church debt. After arriving in Scotland, he accepted an invitation to minister at St. David's, Kirkintilloch. His five years in Victoria were served in an ardent manner, yet unfortunately were scarred by the schism with the First Presbyterian Church. Many of the congregation felt he should have returned to Victoria to aid in the healing process of this unfortunate rift. However, this was not to be and he was succeeded by Reverend Simeon MacGregor who arrived in Victoria on the ship *Telfair* on December 29, 1869. Mr.