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**EARLY HISTORY, ST. JOHN'S PARISH**  
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mouth. In the following May, John Fitzgerald, a railroad contractor, purchased from Charles Rezonby, Lots 11 and 12 in Block 12 with a residence upon them. This was immediately fitted up as a priest's house.

In April, 1872, the Rev. Francis Bobal succeeded Father Hayes. In his pastorate, in May, 1875, the same Mr. Fitzgerald secured the adjoining Lot 10 in Block 12, upon which the cornerstone for the construction of a large brick church, 36 by 80 feet, was laid on Sept. 3, 1875, by the Very Rev. William Byrne, the Administrator of the Vicariate of Nebraska, assisted by Father Bobal. From Plattsmouth, Father Bobal attended the mission near Louisville (now Manley), Greenwood and Crete. He also had charge of all the Bohemian settlements of the vicariate and attended them on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month.

Father Bobal was transferred to Omaha and was succeeded by the Rev. John Jennette, who became pastor of Plattsmouth from October 25, 1875, to September, of 1876, when this mission was attached to the Cathedral in Omaha and attended by the Rev. J. M. Martin to March, 1877.

It was then that the Rev. John A. Hayes took charge of Plattsmouth the second time as resident priest and completed the new brick church in that same year. It was dedicated Sunday, October 14, 1877, by the Most Rev. James O'Connor, who also confirmed 45 persons on that day. And so it was that the new St. John's church, the cornerstone of which was laid under the pastorate of Father Eobal in September, 1875, was continued shortly after, from 1875 to March, 1878, by the Rev. J. Jennette, and completed by the Rev. J. A. Hayes in the summer of 1877. After the church was built, Mr. Fitzgerald bought the other three adjoining lots to the west.

In July, 1878, the Rev. Patrick S. Lynch took charge of this parish until May, 1884. He found \$11,000.00 debt on the church property. For that reason, he sold the old St. John's church property at the corner of Fifth and Granite streets to Robert Bailleance on April 25, 1881, for \$350. That building is still standing and is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Petersen.

The priest was unable to collect much more than the proceeds of the sale, however, and was unable to pay the second year's eight per cent interest on the mortgage held by Mr. Fitzgerald, who, in the meantime had moved to Lincoln. Whereupon this gentleman after conferring with  
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