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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 85.—THE NEW DEAN OF ONTARIO.

THE recent appointment of Rev. Buxton B. Smith to be dean of Ontario calls attention to the good old parish of St. George's Cathedral, Kingston. According to the records it is just one hundred years ago, the year of bloodshed and revolution in France, since the first English church was built in Kingston. It was a frame building, afterwards used as a schoolhouse, and is standing yet, we believe, in Kingston. As a church it had entrances at the side and gable, and small galleries across both ends. It had a belfry and small bell, which was rung at stated hours every day. In one of the galleries was a barrel organ, afterwards replaced by a keyed instrument. The first clergyman put in charge of this parish was Rev. John Stuart, who was born in 1730, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, of Irish and Presbyterian parentage. After graduating at a Philadelphia college he joined the Church of England, and was appointed missionary to the Mohawks at Fort Hunter. Owing to his loyalty to the British throne at the time of the revolutionary war, he was obliged to take refuge in Canada. After remaining a short time in St. Johns and Montreal, he accepted the chaplaincy to the

garrison at Cataraqui—as Kingston was then called—and moved there with his wife and three sons in 1785. It was in his time that the original St. George's Church was built.

His eldest son, George O'Kill Stuart, graduated at Cambridge in 1801, took holy orders and was appointed missionary at York, now Toronto, and on the death of his father, in 1811, was appointed second rector of St. George's. He was an energetic pastor, and under his superintendence the stone edifice so long known

as St. George's Church, and subsequently the cathedral, was built. In 1861 Kingston became the see city of a new diocese (the Diocese of Ontario), and Dr. Stuart naturally became the first dean; but his death in 1862, the year of the consecration of Dr. Lewis, the new bishop, left a double vacancy, the rectory of St. George's and the deanery of Ontario. The bishop appointed the Rev. J. B. Lauder to the position; but the appointment was so strongly opposed that Dr. Lauder exchanged positions with an Irish clergyman,



VERY REV. BUXTON B. SMITH, M.A.,  
Dean of Ontario.

the Rev. James Lyster, who, for several years, was rector of St. George's and dean of Ontario. In 1884, Dean Lyster retired on a superannuation allowance, and spent the rest of his days in the old country, his place being supplied by Rev. Buxton B. Smith as vicar or rector in charge of the parish. The recent death of Dean Lyster left the rectory vacant again, and