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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 46—BISHOP'S COLLEGE, LENNOXVILLE.

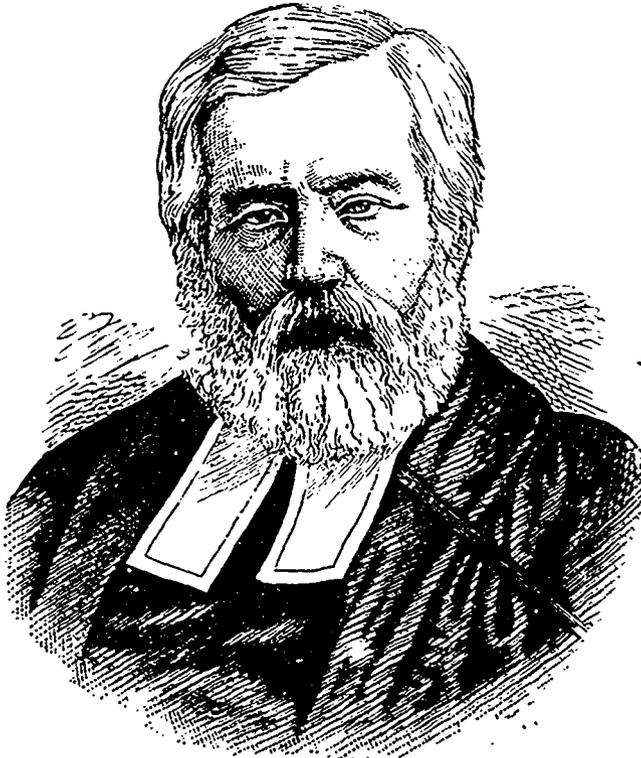
IN 1839 the Rt. Rev. G. J. Mountain, the third Bishop of Quebec, had written to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that "it had long been his ardent wish and prayer to establish a college." In the same year this venerable society voted £200 a year towards the maintenance of Divinity students. The recipients of this help were placed at Three Rivers, P.Q., under the charge of the Rector, the Rev. S. S. Wood, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Bishop, writing again to the society in April, 1841, informing them of the completion of the arrangement as regards the students who were under Mr. Wood's care, says, "I have thus paved the way, I hope, for the establishment of that institution.—I shall be thankful if I can say that college,—the rough project of which I communicated to you in November last."

Curiously enough the Rectory at Three Rivers was part of a former monastery, the chapel of which had become the parish church, and while arrangements to establish a college at Three Rivers were pending the Rev. Lucius Doolittle, Rector of Lennoxville and Sherbrooke, came forward on behalf of himself and several residents of the neighborhood, with the offer of large contributions of money and land if the site of the college were fixed at Lennoxville. The site at Three Rivers had been chosen with a view to a purely theologi-

cal institution; but the consideration which decided the choice of Lennoxville, was that this was in the midst of the Eastern Townships, the headquarters of the English-speaking people of Lower Canada. Many English families were at that time settling in this section, and there were many settlers from amongst United Empire Loyalists, from whose families might be expected students. Mr. Wood was the first Principal designate of the college, and while the theological students still re-

mained with him, a preparatory school was opened at Lennoxville in 1842, under the charge of Mr. Edward Chapman, B. A., of Caius College, Cambridge.

In 1843 the bounty of the S. P. G. encouraged the local friends of the proposed institution to renew their labors, and after Bishop Mountain's return from his memorable expedition to the North-West, the corner stone of the college was laid on Sept. 18th, 1844. Mr. Wood, much to the Bishop's regret, relinquished the idea of taking charge of the college, and the first Principal was found in the person of the Rev. Jasper Nicolls, of Queen's College, Oxford, who, with charac-



THE LATE REV. S. S. WOOD,
Pioneer Missionary, Diocese of Quebec.

teristic disinterestedness, accepted the post at a salary of £100 a year. This small salary was soon trebled in consequence of a munificent gift from Mr. Harrold, who gave the Bishop £6,000 towards carrying on the work nearest to his heart. In 1845, while the buildings were still incomplete the Principal opened a college in part of a building, the rest of which was occupied by a store. There were inconveniences and privations endured which were taken as part of the training for missionary