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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### NO. 23.—THE SECOND BISHOP OF NOVA SCOTIA.\*

By REV. DR. PARTRIDGE, HALIFAX, N. S.

**I**N the death of the Rt. Rev. Charles Inglis, D. D., first Bishop of Nova Scotia, he was succeeded by Robert Stanser, D. D., at that time rector of the mother Church of St. Paul, Halifax.

The aged and revered Dr. John Breynton, first Rector of St. Paul's, had obtained leave of absence during the year 1785 for a short time, to seek rest in England from his arduous labors. After his arrival in his native land his health continued to give way, and he resigned his parish in 1790. The parishioners commissioned him to select a clergyman who should be recommended to the Archbishop of Canterbury for nomination to succeed to the Rectorship of St. Paul's. In the year 1791, the Rev. Robert Stanser, M. A., of Jesus College, Cambridge, who had previously held preferment in England, was so recommended. A letter from Dr. Breynton to his parishioners states that "Mr. Stanser's character in learning, morals and abilities has been thoroughly investigated," and that he is "fully persuaded that Mr. Stanser possesses a truly Christian spirit as well as the other qualifications of a minister of the Gospel."

The parishioners to whom belonged the right of presentation, accepted Dr. Stanser with unanimity, and he was accordingly inducted. In the report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, of the year 1792, it appears that "the Rev. Mr. Stanser, who succeeded the Rev. Dr. Breynton, the society's old and most respectable missionary at Halifax, has acquainted the society of his having been instituted into that parish by the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and legally inducted by the Church

wardens, and that he had received every mark of attention, which he could expect or desire."

The records of St. Paul's Church from 1800 to 1824 having unfortunately been lost, the materials for writing a memoir of Mr. Stanser are very scanty, and are chiefly derived from the journals of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He appears to have discharged his duties at St. Paul's with great diligence and assiduity, in which he was much assisted by his amiable and accomplished



THE RT. REV. JOHN INGLIS, D. D.,  
Third Bishop of Nova Scotia.

wife. His salary was increased by the society in 1798 to £70 a year, as "a mark of their approbation of his diligent conduct in the duties of his mission, to which they were the more inclined from the Bishop of Nova Scotia having recommended it," at the same time giving him an assistant. In

\*All our endeavors to procure a portrait of Bishop Stanser so far have failed. We shall be glad to hear of some means of obtaining one.—Ed.