

The First Protestant Missionary in Canada

THE REV. THOMAS WOOD, the subject of this sketch, was a Church of England clergyman, who was sent by the S.P.G. in 1752 to work among the Indians of Nova Scotia, and to visit the garrisons stationed in various parts of the province.

While he was not the first clergyman to settle in Canada, or to hold services here, yet he was the first to do real missionary work.

Several clergymen came over from England to Halifax with the settlers in 1749. One of them, the **Rev. William Anwyl**, held the first service on the beach at Halifax as soon as the transports arrived. He died a few months later. Another of them, the **Rev. William Tutty**, took charge of St. Paul's until the arrival of Dr. John Breynton in 1752, a naval Chaplain, who had been with the British forces at the siege of Louisburg in 1744. The third, the **Rev. Jean Baptiste Moreau**, was soon sent to Lunenburg, to minister to the German settlers. Earlier still than this time, there were clergymen at Annapolis Royal. In 1710, Port Royal was taken by the British, their first possession in Canada, and the name was at once changed to Annapolis Royal. The **Rev. John Harrison**, Chaplain to the forces, held a service of thanksgiving for victory. They used the Roman Catholic chapel of Ste. Anne on this occasion.

After this, from time to time, chaplains were sent to the garrison which was kept at Annapolis Royal, but more than once the officers and men of the garrison had to baptize their own children, there being no clergyman among them. There is another recorded service in Canada, some three hundred years ago, an inter-