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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 38.—THE SECOND BISHOP OF NOVA SCOTIA.*

THE Declaration of Independence made by certain British colonies in North America, on the 4th of July, A. D. 1776, exerted a great influence on the still small and struggling settlement of Halifax.

The inhabitants at that time embraced three classes of people not likely to produce the needful growth of a young colony. First, the emigrants themselves consisted, on the one hand, of disbanded soldiers, who, from boyhood had led a roving life and had all their actual wants supplied by the Government, and of needy Germans on the other, induced to try the new country by enticing advertisements. Secondly, the French who, by industry and frugality, had built up homes throughout Acadia (the name originally given to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), and who looked with envious eye and hostile feelings upon those whom they considered as intruders upon the land. As a third element were the Indians, the aborigines, the undoubted owners of the soil, who were close and devoted allies of the French. Halifax, accord-

ingly, was an unsettled place in which to live, the population being at that time (1776) about five thousand. At that time the Rev. Dr. Breynton, a faithful and devoted pastor, was rector of St. Paul's, the parish church, who, after a long and arduous pastorate sailed from Halifax in September, 1785, for a period of rest and relaxation in the mother land. Two years afterwards, while the

rector of St. Paul's was still in England, in the year 1787, the first colonial bishop, Rt. Rev. Charles Inglis, D. D., arrived in Halifax to take possession of his enormous See of Nova Scotia, with jurisdiction over the whole of British North America. In 1789 we find that Dr. Breynton found himself unable to return to his duties, much to the sorrow of his old parishioners, who wrote affectionately to him in England and urged him to

select and recommend some clergyman to the Archbishop of Canterbury as his successor. The result was that a Mr. Stanser, son of Dr. Stanser, rector of Bulwell, a man of means and influence, was sent out, not as rector (because Dr. Breynton held that the right of presentation belonged to the people), but as "a candidate for the rectory." Of this clergyman he says, writing to the vestry clerk of St. Paul's:—

"As his character in learning, morals and abilities has been thoroughly investigated I hope you will use all your influence in establishing him as rector."

At a meeting of the parishioners in 1791 it was voted and resolved,

That the Rev. Mr. Stanser be presented to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that he will be pleased to issue the necessary orders for his induction to the rectory of this

parish, and that the churchwardens and vestry acquaint the Rev. Mr. Stanser that the parish have this day agreed to present him to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor for induction, and that "a vote has accordingly passed for that purpose."

Thus were rectors appointed in those early days. In the following year, 1792, the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has the following record:—

"The Rev. Mr. Stanser, who succeeded the Rev.



THE RT. REV. DR. STANSER,
Second Bishop of Nova Scotia.

*Taken chiefly from "The History of St. Paul's Church, Halifax," by Rev. Geo. W. Hill, D. C. L.