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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### No. 51—THE MISSIONS OF THE UPPER OTTAWA.

By THE EDITOR.

**I**N No. 6 of this magazine (December, 1886) a brief account was given of the "Upper Ottawa Associate Mission," together with an illustration of some of the buildings connected with it. Since then the work has continued steadily to increase until new ground has

been opened and a second mission established. A reference to the financial statement of this mission for 1887-1889, being the final statement before its subdivision into two missions, will show that a work of no ordinary kind has been done there. The receipts during that space of time, both outside of and within the mission amounted to \$4,410 46, a large portion of which was spent upon the erection of buildings needed in the prosecution of its work. The establishment and remarkable growth of this mission is due to the energy and perseverance of Rev. Rural Dean Bliss, some account of whom will no doubt be acceptable to the readers of this magazine.

Charles Vaughan Forster Bliss, was born in Harvey, Albert County, New Brunswick, on 12th of May, 1853, his father being then travelling missionary in that portion of the Diocese of Fredericton. Subsequently his father was appointed to the Rectory of Sussex, King's County, and it was at the King's County Grammar School that he received his primary education. His father was a pioneer missionary who, from exposure and hardship, suffered early in life loss of voice, and had to

retire from active clerical work for several years. In 1867 he removed to Ottawa, where his son's education was continued at a private school. In 1872 young Bliss entered the Government service as Private Secretary to Sir Leonard Tilley, then a Cabinet Minister, and this office he held till a change of administration. Under the Mackenzie Government he held a similar position, being appointed Private Secretary to the Hon. Isaac Burpee, Minister of Customs. During these years he worked in outlying districts about Ottawa as

Lay Reader. In 1876 Mr. Bliss published "The Clerical Guide," which went through three editions, and was only discontinued because it involved financial loss. He continued in the Government Service for ten years, resigning in March, 1882, in order to devote himself entirely to Church and missionary work. He was ordained deacon on Advent Sunday, 1881, in St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, by the Lord Bishop of Ontario, and priest on St. Mark's Day, 1883, in St. Alban's Church, Ottawa, by the same bishop.

Mission work on the Upper Ottawa had been long in contempla-

tion by the bishop, but he had no one to send. It was a *terra incognita* to all but shantymen, and little information could be obtained about it. It was two hundred miles from Ottawa, and one hundred from the nearest parish or mission. The Mission Board had been petitioned to aid in opening the district, and for three years they voted a grant, but it was never taken up, the bishop being unable to supply the missionary. In March, 1882, Mr. Bliss offered himself to the bishop for that mission field and was at once appointed, leaving almost immediately, and holding the first Church



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Upper Ottawa Missionary and Rural Dean, Diocese of Ontario.