

## A PIONEER CLERGYMAN OF QUEBEC DIOCESE.

**T**HE Rev. Samuel Simpson Wood, whose portrait adorns the first page of this issue of our magazine, was one of the early pioneer missionaries of the diocese of Quebec, and therefore of that portion of the country which was originally called Canada. The early days of the history of the Church in this country, when it was forcing its way into the backwoods, should not be forgotten, and when the history of the Church in Canada comes to be written it will be found that her foundation and existence are due to the heroic work of missionaries who toiled alone in the midst of privations and isolation. Such was the case with Mr. Wood. He was born on the 21st of February, 1795, and was the son of a British officer. He was educated at Cambridge and was ordained deacon by Bishop Barrington, of Durham. After being for one year a curate in England he felt a strong desire to undertake the work of a missionary, and was sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to Bishop Mountain, the first Bishop of Quebec. He left England in 1819 and having been admitted to Priests' orders in the Cathedral of Quebec was sent to Drummondville, a military settlement on the River St. Francis in the District of Three Rivers. The only other clergyman in what is now called the Diocese of Quebec, south of the St. Lawrence was the Hon. and Rev. C. J. Stewart, afterwards second Bishop of Quebec, so that Mr. Wood's was a life of complete isolation, doing the Master's work. Gifted with a beautiful voice for singing he made his service not only impressive but bright and attractive. He was sent to England in 1834 on various missions, one of them being to urge upon the authorities at home the establishment of McGill College, Montreal, as the university for Lower Canada. It was found, however, that through long delays this institution has passed virtually out of the hands of the Church. The third Bishop of Quebec, Dr. G. J. Mountain, succeeded in establishing a theological school for his diocese which he placed under Mr. Wood's charge at Three Rivers. His rectory there had been originally a monastery, and was well adapted for an educational institution in connection with the parish church, once the monastery chapel. This school was afterwards moved to Lennoxville, and this became the commencement of Bishop's College. Mr. Wood, however, preferred to remain where he was.

He had married in 1834 Miss Margaret Mary Hallowell, eldest daughter of the late James Hallowell, Esq., of Quebec, and cousin of Mrs. Bethune, wife of the late Dean of Montreal.

Mr. Wood was the last clergyman who received Priests' orders at the hands of the first Bishop of Quebec. He has spent in that diocese the whole of his ministerial life of half a century with the

exception of the year of his deaconate, and two later years, and had served the Church under the episcopate of all its four bishops, and the reign of four British sovereigns. He enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all the Bishops of Quebec, particularly of Bishop Stewart, who had designed to appoint him to an Archdeaconry, and of his successor, whose more immediate contemporary he was. Between him and the latter (Dr. G. J. Mountain) there subsisted, for upwards of forty years, a brotherly affection, springing from a thorough mutual regard and esteem. The bishop spoke once of his companionship on dreary journeys as follows:

"I would you had heard how my companion, as we toiled along, beguiled the way through the midnight woods, by repeating from his favorite poets, to whose works the conversation happened to lead, I believe a hundred lines at a time, and favored by the darkness, which removed some of the checks upon his confidence, gave their full effect to many animated or touching lines."

Mr. Wood died peacefully in his home on the banks of the River St. Francis in March, 1868, three sons and five daughters surviving him. Mrs. Wood survived her husband fifteen years. She died in St. Catharines, Ont., on the 23rd of May, 1883. S. S. Wood, Esq., of Toronto, and E. C. F. Wood, Esq., of Woodstock, Ont., are his sons.

All honor to those noble men who, like him, suffered the isolation and privations incident to pioneer missionary work in the colonies. Others have entered upon their labors and are building upon their foundations.

REV. W. ALLAN, of West Africa, thus summarizes the vast changes that have taken place since the Gospel was first preached at Bonny, in Africa:

"The worship of the iguana is overthrown, the priest is a regular attendant at the house of God, and the iguana itself converted into an article of food. The Juju temple, which a few years ago was decorated with twenty thousand skulls of murdered victims, I found rotting away in ruin and decay. I passed through the grove which was formerly the receptacle of so many murdered infants, and I found it had become the regular highway from the town to the church, and that the priest was now a baptized Christian. I went ashore and addressed 885 worshippers, including the king, the three former heathen priests, chiefs, and a multitude of slaves, and was thankful to ascertain that the work of conversion was still going on; for, in addition to 648 persons already baptized, of whom 265 are communicants, there are over 700 at Bonny alone who are now under instruction."—*Missionary Herald*.

A Mission School is to be established by Rev. E. W. Kelly, of Mandalay, on the very spot where Dr. Adoniram Judson, the first missionary from America, suffered cruel imprisonment at Oungpenla.