

MEMOIR OF THE LATE BISHOP MOUNTAIN.

A Memoir of GEORGE JEHOSEPHAT MOUNTAIN, D.D., D.C.L., late Bishop of Quebec, compiled (at the desire of the Synod of that Diocese) by his son, Armine W. Mountain, M.A., Incumbent of St. Michael's Chapel, Quebec.

It is obvious that a new country like the Dominion of Canada must be occupied in "making history," not in writing it: and, similarly it may be said we have to live lives, rather than write them. In the struggles, the enterprise, the forethought, the developments of natural character incident to a new country, are constantly accumulating the materials for many a biographical volume, which will not only instruct but edify succeeding generations. But though working rather than writing has befitted it best, and must be the rule for a long period to come,—it is hardly safe to neglect wholly the compilation and publication of memoirs either historical or biographical, since thus important facts may be obscured, or even lost; and it is well, too, that our young people should be pluming their wings a little, and learning gradually to rise out of that even routine of work into the higher regions of intellectual life.

The volume we have named, and of which we promised sometime ago a more extended notice, is entitled to be regarded, both from its subject and its execution, as an honorable precursor, in its own department, of our Canadian literature that is to be. It lays the provincial Church under no small obligation to its respected author. The Church must ever instinctively feel a more special interest in those who have assisted in laying her foundations; and assuredly he can have but little knowledge of the Church of England in this Province, and even less concern for her, who does not at once acknowledge the claims of the late Bishop of Quebec, to the grateful remembrance and veneration of every intelligent member of our communion.

The Bishop's family is of French extraction, having settled in Norfolk on the revocation of the Edict of Nantz. He was born at Norwich, England, 27th July, 1789—his father being incumbent of St. Andrew's in that town. In 1793 his father was consecrated the first Bishop of Quebec, whither he at once removed, and where was spent the boyhood of the future Bishop. Under the training of a private tutor, he gave early and decided promise of those literary tastes and varied acquirements for which he was afterwards distinguished. At sixteen he left for England, and, after further preliminary studies, entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, about 1808.

In 1811 he returned to Canada, and pursued his studies with a view to holy orders under the guidance of his father. He was ordained Deacon in 1812. The following year he accompanied his father on an Episcopal visit of the U. C., and most interesting to us at the present day are the notices which have been preserved of the incidents and means of travel. Think of leaving Quebec on the 22nd July, and reaching Kingston on 8th September! of being driven back to

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