

CHAPTER XI.

THE EPISCOPAL APPOINTMENT.

THE first name that appears to have been brought forward in connection with the Bishopric of Quebec was that of the Rev. Samuel Peters, D.D. He was the son of John Peters, of Hebron, Connecticut, whose name is prominent in the *Hebron Land Records*, vol. IX, p. 264, as conveying to the S. P. G. about 30 acres of land for a glebe for the Church of England, and which came into the possession of the Parish of St. Peter's Church in that town as the legal successor of the Church of England there. This land was leased by the Parish on the 25th of May, 1795, to S. W. Case for the full term of 9999 years—he “paying therefor yearly during the said term, unto us, John Sutton and John T. Peters, church wardens of said society, and to our successors in said office, the annual rent of one grain of pure silver, or other silver or gold equivalent (if demanded), upon the festival of St. John the Baptist, in each year ensuing the date of these presents, during the term above said.”* Samuel Peters was born in the year 1735,† graduated at Yale College, was ordained in England, and eventually inducted into the Parish of Hebron in 1758.‡

This parish had for twenty years been striving to obtain a clergyman. “People must have been truly ‘athirst for God,’” says the S. P. G. Record (page 841), “who could—as the inhabitants of Hebron in Connecticut did for twenty years—persevere and at great expense, in sending to England four candidates successively, before they succeeded in obtaining a resident Missionary. The first of these candidates, Mr. Dean (1745), perished at sea while returning. The next, Mr. Colton, died of small-pox within a week after his return (1752). The third, Mr. Usher, was on the return voyage taken prisoner by the French (1757), and died in the Castle of Bayonne of small-pox. The last, Mr. Peters, was taken ill with the same disease in England, but recovered and returned, to the joy of his flock.”

Mr. Peters continued in the charge of this Parish until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, when in 1774 he “left his mission

* See the *Living Church*, Aug. 5, 1893. † Sabine's *Loyalists*, p. 181.

‡ S. P. G. Records, p. 853.