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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

No. 115 - THE DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

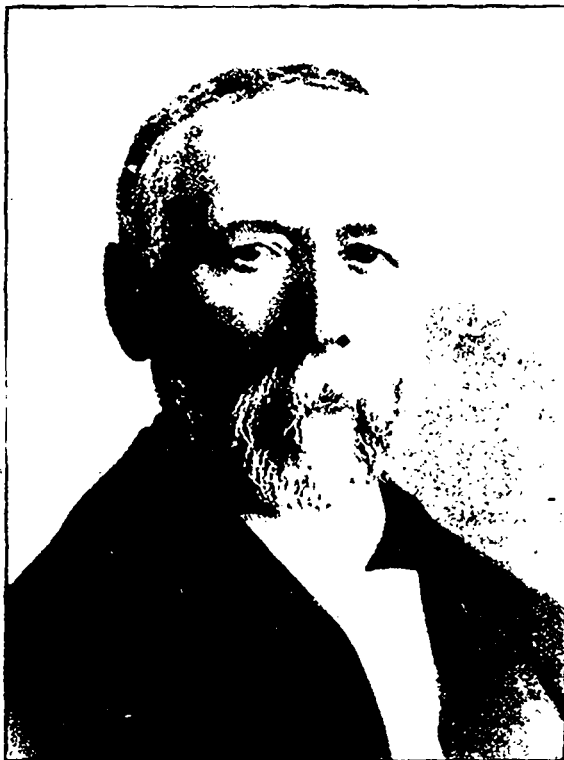
AFTER a vacancy of over a year the diocese of New Westminster finds itself at last supplied with a bishop. The late Bishop Sillitoe died on June 9th, 1894, leaving behind him a diocese well organized, though not fully equipped for work. The size of the diocese is so great, and the geographical obstacles, such as mountains and rapid rivers, so numerous, that missionary work is no easy task. It is divided into eleven parishes, and seven huge missionary districts. New districts, owing to mining operations, which attract a large population, have from time to time to be opened, and this, from a missionary point of view, brings fresh anxiety. Bishop Sillitoe, in his last report, spoke thus of his diocese

"The year we have entered upon is going to be one of enormous progress, and this progress will bring with it increased responsibilities. It may seem as if the limit of human industry had been reached in our clergy, and further effort impossible. Nevertheless, the new responsibilities must be accepted, the new call answered, and the increased burden cheerfully shouldered. The Church in this diocese has always, thank God, been able to attract to its services men of energy and devotion. The labourer's hire amongst us is not a sum of magnificent dimensions, but he will be gladly content with it if it be accompanied by the sympathy and regard of the people."

In the midst of high hopes of this kind Bishop Sillitoe was called away, and the work which seemed to promise much received an unlooked for check.

The Synod of the diocese elected Rev. W. Hibbert Binney, son of the late Bishop of Nova Scotia, to be their bishop, but Mr. Binney did not feel himself physically strong enough to undertake the work. As the Synod subsequently failed to unite upon any other person the matter was left to the Bishops of British Columbia who, with the Archbishop of Canterbury,

selected the Rev. John Dart, D.D., D.C.L., for the position. Dr. Dart, though an Englishman, was by no means unknown in Canada, having been for some years connected with the diocese of Nova Scotia. He was educated at St. Mary Hall, Oxford, from which he graduated, taking the degree of B.A. in the year 1867, and that of M.A. in 1871. In India he obtained the position of Warden of St. Thomas' College, Ceylon (which was then, as it is now, an important centre of education for that island), and was appointed chaplain to Bishop Piers Cloughton, Bishop of Colombo. He procured the affiliation of the institution to the Calcutta University. Returning to England he became vice-principal



THE LATE BISHOP SILLITOE.

and science lecturer in St. Peter's College, Peterborough. Subsequently he came out to Nova Scotia and was appointed president of the University of King's College, Windsor, and Canon of St. Luke's Cathedral, Halifax. This position he occupied from 1875 to 1885. In 1877 he obtained the degree of D.C.L. from King's University, Windsor, and in 1895 the degree of D.D. from Oxford.