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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 54.—THE SOCIETY AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

By THE EDITOR.

THAT the Anglican Church has a great work to do among the nations of the earth cannot be denied. She occupies a unique position among the various Churches now in existence. Though accepting the flood of light which came

to the Christian world at the time of the Reformation, she did not allow it to break her connection with the historic past. Her old form of ministry, her old records, her national position and apostolical standing were all maintained, and have been carefully guarded ever since. The gradual branching off of her sons and daughters to distant lands was the means of widening the influence and extending the usefulness of this Church, until now it has become a power that may almost be regarded as cosmopolitan, for the sound of her bells and the words of her liturgy are known in every quarter of the globe. The Church of England in Canada, in Australia, New Zealand, Africa and many other lands is known by name, and her conservative influence is well and clearly felt. Side by side with her is the powerful daughter Church of the United States, in strict communion with her, exercising her influence in continually increasing proportions upon

the great and important country in which her lot is cast.

This, then, shows the formation of a great community, spread over all portions of the globe, and as each new branch becomes strong enough a further avenue for its spread and increase is opened up, because the sons and daughters of the younger Churches themselves go forth to do missionary work. Such, in a marked manner, has been the case with the Church in the United States. She has shown herself possessed of vigorous life and energy,

and has had effective machinery in operation for many years in the way of securing foothold in the new territories of the West as people pour into them, and form homes, villages and cities, as well as in distant lands across the sea. To-day the American missionary, both bishop and priest, both man and woman, may be found in foreign lands side by side with his English brother prosecuting the work of Christ in the same old Church of unbroken antiquity. Thus is the work in foreign lands being shared by daughter Churches in such a manner as

to assist the mother Church in her foreign work.

Though perhaps late in the day, still we are now able to say that the Church of England in Canada has entered upon this laudable work, and is beginning to send her own men and women to take their places as workers in the foreign field. In 1883 the Provincial Synod of Canada formed a distinct and official Missionary Society, whose work was to be two-fold—in the interest



THE REV. J. G. WALLER,
The Society's First Foreign Missionary.