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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 78.—REV. CANON SANSON.

**I**N the 19th of May last a meeting of the members of "Little Trinity," or Trinity East, Toronto, was held for the purpose of congratulating the Rev. Canon Sanson on having attained the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

From the *Toronto Globe* we take the following sketch of Canon Sanson's life—called forth by the celebration of his jubilee:

Rev. Alexander Sanson, Rector of Little Trinity Church, King St. east, and Canon of St. Alban's Cathedral, who on Sunday, May 8th, passed an anniversary that but few men reach, for on that day he celebrated the jubilee of his ordination as a priest, was born in Edinburgh in the year 1819. He was educated at the high school and academy in that city, and in 1833 came out to Canada with his parents and other members of the family, and settled in Orillia, where he remained some four or five years. The next three years were devoted to preparation for ordination, which solemn ceremony took place on Sunday, May 8th, 1842. In connection with this occasion it is interesting to learn that of the large number of young clergymen ordained at the same time and place only one other survives, viz., Right Rev. Dr. Welby, the Bishop of St.

Helena, a position he has held for over thirty years.

Rev. Mr. Sanson's first charge was at York Mills, in addition to which he took a pastoral oversight of St. Paul's in old Yorkville. The latter parish, however, under his fostering care, was able two years later to support a pastor of its own, and has ever since been the centre of active Christian work in the district. For ten years Mr. Sanson controlled the spiritual desti-

tinies of York Mills in conjunction with Rev. Mr. Whiteman, a Presbyterian pastor, and the rector's only ministerial neighbour, and of whom he speaks in the warmest terms of kindly recollection. One break, however, occurred in the decade during which the subject of this sketch was living at York Mills, when, in August, 1848, he went home to recuperate his health and strength, returning in twelve months with renewed vigour and energy to prosecute his life's work. While filling his first incumbency, the old wooden church building erected in 1816 by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Francis Gore, was



THE REV. CANON SANSON

*Rector of Trinity East, Toronto.*

replaced by the substantial stone and brick edifice still in use, which was completed and dedicated in 1843.

In connection with the laying of the foundation stone of this building, the following interesting paragraph appears in Dr. Scadding's "Toronto of Old": "On that occasion Dr. Strachan, now Bishop Strachan, named as special pro-