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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 26.—THE SECOND BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

ABRIDGED FROM "LIVES OF MISSIONARIES," S. P. C. K.

THE Hon. Charles James Stewart, the fifth son of the seventh Earl of Galloway, was

born on the 3rd of April,

1775. His early education was carried on at home, under the care of a private tutor, and at the usual age he proceeded to Corpus Christi, Oxford.

As a student at Oxford he took a great interest in the movement for the abolition of slavery, and declined to use sugar because it was the product of slave labor. This showed his love for humanity as afterwards proved by his life of wondrous self-denial for the welfare of mankind.

At the age of twenty years, Stewart was elected to a fellowship in the aristocratic college of All

Souls; and in 1799, after taking the degree of Master of Arts, he was presented by his cousin, the Earl of Aboyne, to the united rectories of Orton Longueville and Botolph Bridge, not far from Peterborough. He continued to hold this preferment for eight years, till he went to Canada.

The population of Canada when it became subject to England consisted of French Roman Catho-

lics, with a few perishing Indian tribes. Disbanded soldiers, and camp followers, the very refuse of the army, were the first specimens of English settlers. Happily for Canada the next addition to her population was of a more honorable description. Loyalists driven from the American Republic came in large numbers to Canada, and found a home for their industry, their laws and their religion.

The first bishop of Quebec, Dr. Jacob Mountain, on arriving in Canada in 1793, found in his episcopal city neither church, nor parsonage, nor bishop's residence: four chaplains maintained by the government, and five missionaries sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, constituted the whole clergy of his diocese—a diocese in which his first visitation extended over a line of country reaching more than 1,200 miles in length from Gaspe to Lake Erie.

The missionary spirit was at a low ebb in the English Church. In the year 1808 the Society had

not been able to increase the number of its missionaries in Canada beyond nine.

An ordinary person, in Mr. Stewart's position, would have been unlikely to conceive the design of proceeding thither as an evangelist. Such a course was contrary to all the settled ways of the world, for a man of noble birth and connections, possessing independent property, just entered on the



HON. AND RT. REV. CHARLES JAMES STEWART, D. D.,
Second Bishop of Quebec (A. D. 1826-37).