

GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN.

THE present Bishop of Quebec said to his Synod in 1878 regarding the Bishop of Lichfield, the great Selwyn, who had just been called to his long home:—

"I knew him in his manhood's prime,

a combination of strength in body and in mind, such as appeared to my young eyes the perfection of humanity, and now that they are older, those eyes have since fallen on no form that gave them the like assurance of a man."

And this is but a sample of what hundreds of others who knew the Apostolic Bishop were able to testify regarding him. The large gathering of Bishops which lately took place at Lambeth recalls the fact of the decade which has passed since the death of the great missionary bishop. And the increased number of prelates present at the Conference is largely due to the rapid growth of the Missionary Episcopate of the Anglican Church in all parts of the world.

The movement which inaugurated this extension of the Missionary Episcopate began in

England in the year 1841. It was one of those sudden movements which surprise every one, and which can only be explained as coming directly from God. Selwyn was then thirty-two years old and ready at any time to go at the call of duty. A missionary bishop was wanted for New Zealand. It was offered to Selwyn's eldest brother, but

chiefly through the influence of his wife was declined by him; and it is reported that George on hearing this was indignant and said "Tell them that there is a Selwyn that will go!" The position was offered to him and at once he went. All England was interested in the departure of the young missionary bishop who it was thought would soon

lose his life among the savages. Sydney Smith with characteristic humor is reported to have said, "Well, good bye Selwyn, if the savages do eat you I hope you will disagree with them!"

The bishop lost no time in preparing for his work. He managed to secure a Maori lad to accompany him on his voyage, and from this living grammar and dictionary he so far mastered the native tongue of New Zealand that immediately on his arrival there he read the service and preached in Maori. Within a few weeks of his landing at Auckland he set off on a visitation tour of over 2,000 miles by sea and land, on horseback and on foot. "How he returned at the end of six months has often been told; on foot, accompanied by a single native carrying the little bag containing



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The great Missionary Bishop.

his gown and cassock, footsore, tattered and almost shoeless, his only suit kept just decent enough to enter the town by daylight, and indulging the hope as he crossed the site already bought by him for the future cathedral, that it might hereafter be traversed by the feet of many bishops better shod and far less ragged than himself."