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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 28.—THE FOURTH BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

BY THE VEN. ARCHDEACON ROE, LENNOXVILLE P. Q.

THE brief account we are enabled to give this month of the episcopate of the revered subject of this notice is peculiarly well timed, seeing that Bishop Williams has just completed

a quarter of a century in the oversight of his Diocese, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration having been celebrated with much enthusiasm at Quebec on St. Barnabas' Day. During those twenty-five years, the Bishop of Quebec has won for himself in an eminent degree, by his able, wise and loving administration of his diocese, the confidence and affection of his own people, and by his statesmanlike ability, manliness, and admirable social qualities, the esteem and respect of all classes of the community in which he lives.

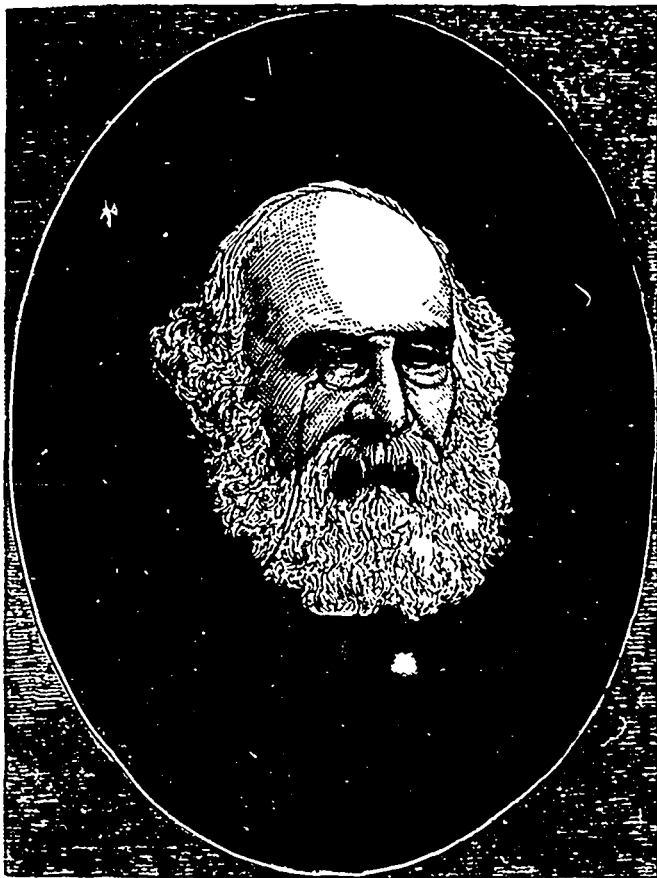
James William Williams, son of the late David Williams, Rector of Banghurst, Hampshire, was born at Overton, Hants, in 1825.

His father's cousin, the saintly Isaac Williams, the poet and profound expositor of Holy Scripture, and the equally well known Archdeacon Sir George Prevost, who had married Isaac Williams's sister, were his godparents. Thus the link of his connection with Quebec was forged at his baptism, for Sir George Prevost was an intimate friend of Bishop Mountain, and probably his advice had a good deal to do with determining his godson to

cast in his lot with the colony over which Sir George Prevost's father had been Governor-General.

James Williams was educated at Crewkerne School, Somerset. At the age of seventeen he went out for three years with a party of engineers to New Zealand, where he met Bishop Selwyn, whose noble character and work made a deep impression upon the young man. Returning from

New Zealand he went to Oxford, entered at Pembroke College, took a good degree in 1851, read for Holy Orders, and was ordained Deacon by the great Bishop of Oxford in 1852, and priest by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1855, serving as curate first at High Wycombe, and afterwards at Huish Champflowers, Somerset. In the interval between the two ordinations he was for two years assistant master in Leamington College. In 1854 he married Anna Maria Waldron, of Wikiliscombe, Somersetshire. Two sons were the offspring of this truly happy marriage, one of whom survives, the Rev. L. W. Williams, Rector of St. Matthew's, Quebec. In 1857, Mr. Williams came



RT. REV. JAMES WILLIAM WILLIAMS, D. D.,
Fourth Bishop of Quebec.

to Canada. The Lennoxville Grammar school, founded in 1845 simultaneously with the College, had, after a career of much prosperity and usefulness, broken down and remained closed for three years. In 1857 it was decided to reopen it, and Mr. Williams was elected Rector. The restoration of a school under those circumstances was, it need not be said, a difficult task, but it soon became apparent that in Mr. Williams, Lennoxville had