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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 39.—THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

TO recapitulate some of the historical facts already recorded in former numbers of this magazine regarding the Diocese of Niagara, it may be said that it consists of the following six counties of the Province

of Ontario—Lincoln, Welland, Haldimand, Halton, Wentworth and Wellington. All of these, with the exception of Wellington, are amongst the smallest counties of Ontario, so that the diocese territorially is by far the smallest in Canada; but it is rich in resources, climate and soil. The Niagara district, as part of it is termed, is well known as the garden of Canada. Here grow peaches, apples, grapes and fruits of many kinds in abundance. Every parish and mission in it is easily

reached, for railroads run in all directions. It originally belonged to the Diocese of Toronto, but was set apart by the consent of the Synod of that diocese as a separate see in 1875. It contains within itself three cities—all towns that can boast of at least ten thousand inhabitants being so designated in Ontario. These are Hamilton, in the County of Wentworth, Guelph in Wellington, and St. Catharines in Lincoln. Ham-

ilton has within itself seven distinct parishes and eight churches; St. Catharines has three parishes and four churches, while Guelph still moves on with but one parish and church. Besides these city churches there are numerous town and country parishes, making in all fifty-six.

On the 17th of March, 1875, the Venerable Thomas Brock Fuller, D.D., D.C.L., Archdeacon of Niagara, and Rector of St. George's Church,

Toronto, was elected first bishop, and was consecrated on the 1st of May in St. Thomas' Church, Hamilton. Though elected to this position late in life, being 65 years old, he gave himself up assiduously to his new duties; but his health soon began to give way, and for the last few years of his life he was scarcely able to do any work. He asked for a co-adjutor more than once, but the feeling seemed to be against that and things so continued till towards the end of the

year 1884 he died, after an episcopate of very nearly ten years. The Synod of the diocese met in Hamilton on Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 1885, to elect a new bishop and continued in session till the following day. On the eighth ballot the Rev. Charles Hamilton, M.A., Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, and Prolocutor of the Lower House, Provincial Synod, was elected by a clerical vote of 41 to 14, and a lay vote of 25 to 22. The other



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