



INTERIOR OF ESKIMO HUT.

## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

## NO. 13—THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

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*Concluded.*

**T**HE idea of a missionary diocese and bishop for Algoma suggested itself first to that great master-mind and far-seeing organizer, Dr. Strachan, the first Bishop of Toronto. In a scheme proposed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1850, for the threefold division of his unwieldy diocese he made special mention of a "bishopric for the Indians, to be called the Diocese of St. Mary." This suggestion seems, however, to have lain dormant till 1868, when the rapid advance of the work of surveying, populating and cultivating the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts as well as Manitoulin Island and the northern shore of Lake Huron, made it impossible for the Bishop of Toronto to supervise and provide for the increasing wants of a region so widely extended. It seemed too that the time had come when the Church ought to undertake distinctively missionary work among those who know not the Gospel of the Son of God. The Indian missions had made little or no advance since 1832, and the missionaries had been, to a very limited extent, supported by the Canadian Church. All whose hearts God had touched were therefore prepared to welcome the resolution of the Toronto Synod of 1868: "That the Provincial Synod be

memorialized as to the urgent necessity of appointing a missionary bishop to labor among the Indians and opening settlements of the North-West." In the same year, at the fourth session of the Provincial Synod a canon was passed by the Upper House providing for the election of a missionary bishop, and it was resolved to seek for aid towards the establishment of this bishopric from the various British societies. No further steps seem to have been taken for three years. But at the Synod of Toronto, held in 1871, a second memorial to the Provincial Synod was drafted, urging immediate action, and in April, 1872, a deputation consisting of Rural Dean Givens and Rev. T. S. Cartwright, was appointed to confer with other synods upon the subject. In November of the same year the Bishops of the Province held an informal meeting at Ottawa, decided that the funds necessary for the support of a missionary bishop should be raised by an assessment upon each diocese, and resolved that a special meeting of the Provincial Synod should be held to carry the scheme into full effect. It was proposed that the assessment of the several dioceses should be as follows: Toronto \$800 per annum, Huron \$600, Ontario \$400, Montreal and Quebec \$300 each.

The special meeting thus decided upon was held in December, 1872, and on Saturday the 14th, the choice of Rev. J. P. DuMoulin was made. After mature deliberation, however, the bishop-elect declined the appointment. Pending further action, the Synod of Toronto, in 1873, defined the boun-