


## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

## NO. II.—THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

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*(Concluded.)*

F the forty-six parishes, nineteen possessed land endowments which, with two or three exceptions, were of very little value as long as the land remained unsold; while twenty-seven were destitute of endowment in any form. Of the forty rectors or incumbents, twenty-seven were in receipt of stipends from the Commutation Fund ranging from £75 to £206 16s. 8d. per annum, and one who did not commute drew his stipend directly from the Government. In one parish (Wolfe Island) the clergyman was partly sustained by a grant from a society in England; and twelve other parishes had been receiving from \$150 to \$270 a year each from the Mission Fund of the old Diocese of Toronto, which arrangement terminated March 31st, 1862. These twelve parishes stood in urgent need of assistance from a Mission Fund which as yet had no existence; and the list was soon swelled by the addition of eleven others, as they were one by one deprived of the services of the stipendiaries of the Commutation Fund. In fact, not more than seventeen of the original parishes have proved equal to the entire support of their clergy without aid for a longer or shorter period from some extraneous source. Hence a Diocesan Mission Fund became an urgent necessity, not only for the opening up of new mission fields, but also for keeping alive a large proportion of the existing parishes.

The forty-six parishes were provided with an average of two Churches each, or about ninety in all—possibly four or five more, if some very temporary log and frame structures in a ruinous condition be included. Of parsonage houses there were only twenty-three; so that only one-half of the parishes were provided with this guarantee of permanence and stability.

Some idea of the progress made in twenty-five years may be formed by a comparison of the state of the Diocese as outlined above with its present condition and prospects. The average number of churches is still two to each parish; but both parishes and churches are more than double what they were, there being 97 of the former and 185 of the latter, while the parsonage houses have exactly trebled, the present number being 69. Several of the old parsonage houses have been rebuilt; while of the churches, only a few of the temporary structures of twenty-five years ago now remain, the greater number having been replaced with permanent buildings more worthy of the name of Church. Hence the rate of progress has been as follows:—Two new parishes, two new parsonages, and six new churches every year! Of the fifty-one new parishes, some twenty five have brought the means of grace to multitudes wholly destitute of them

previously—at least as ministered by their own spiritual mother—while the remainder, being off-shoots or sub divisions of the older parishes, have made more abundant provision for those who, though within the sound of the Gospel, had been all too sadly neglected through paucity of laborers. To the former class belong the parishes or missions of Clarendon, Parham and Sharbot Lake, in the Rural Deanery of Frontenac; Tamworth, in the Deanery of Lennox and Addington; Madoc, Marmora, North Hastings and Queensborough, in the Deanery of Hastings; Kitley, Lansdowne Front and Pittsburg, in the Deanery of Leeds; Cumberland, Finch, Newton and Plantagenet, in the Deanery of Stormont; and Arnprior, Beachburg, Eganville, Lanark, Maberly, Pembroke, Renfrew, Rockingham (or Combermere), Stafford and the Upper Ottawa Mission, in the Deanery of Lanark and Renfrew. To the latter class belong the parish of All Saints, Kingston, in the Deanery of Frontenac; the mission of Selby, in the Deanery of Lennox and Addington; the parishes of Christ Church and St. John's Church (Belleville), Deseronto and Shannonville, in the Deanery of Hastings; the parishes of Trinity Church and St. Paul's Church (Brockville), and Leeds Rear, in the Deanery of Leeds; Augusta, Edwardsburg, North Augusta and Oxford Mills, in the Deanery of Grenville; Morrisburg and Vankleek Hill, in the Deanery of Stormont; Archville, Bell's Corners, Fitzroy Harbor, Gloucester, Nepean, New Edinburgh, and the parishes of St. Alban's, St. John's and St. George's (Ottawa), in the Deanery of Carleton; and Almonte and Lombardy, in the Deanery of Lanark and Renfrew. Outside of these ninety-seven parishes, viz., at Odessa, in the Deanery of Lennox and Addington, and Griffith, in that of Lanark and Renfrew, services are kept up by the Christian zeal and energy of two permanent deacons who have not forsaken their worldly callings; and within the parishes themselves regular services are carried on, not only in the 185 Churches, but also in not less than fifty School Houses, Orange Halls, Town Halls, or other suitable (or unsuitable!) buildings—sometimes with the assistance of permanent deacons and lay readers, but in most cases by the parochial clergy alone. Hence in twenty-five years the number of distinct congregations in the diocese has grown from about 100 up to nearly 250.

On March 25th, 1862, the number of clergymen in the diocese was fifty-five. On March 25th, 1887, the number is 117, viz., 109 priests and eight deacons, of whom twelve are superannuated or on leave, and 105 in active service. Of these, sixty-five received their deacon's orders, and sixty-two their priesthood, at the hands of Bishop Lewis. Some thirty or forty other clergymen ordained by him are now at work in other dioceses. During twenty-four years up to July 4th, 1886, at 714 confirmations, 24,119 persons have been confirmed, of whom 21,534 received at the same time their first communion. In the preparation of these candi-