

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH.

In 1875 the Diocese of Niagara was set off from Toronto. It comprises what is known as the Niagara Peninsula and several adjacent counties, with Hamilton as its see city. It is the smallest and most compact and easily worked of all our Canadian dioceses. Besides the city of Hamilton which is a place of nearly 50,000 inhabitants, it contains the cities of Guelph and St. Catharines, and a large number of populous towns and villages.

Archdeacon Fuller, Rector of St. George's, Toronto was the first bishop of Niagara. Although not in any sense a brilliant man, Dr. Fuller, who at the time of his appointment was sixty five years of age, faithfully and efficiently discharged his duties until his death in 1884.

He was succeeded in the same year by Rev. Charles Hamilton, Rector of St. Matthew's, Quebec, a graduate of Oxford, though a native born Canadian. Bishop Hamilton is a member of a family profoundly and deservedly respected in the Ancient Capital, and a brother of the late Robert Hamilton whose splendid and judicious benefactions to the Church in the diocese of Quebec and the Dominion generally, will be remembered by most of our readers.

In 1896 Bishop Hamilton was elected to the newly formed see of

Ottawa, and was with the consent of the House of Bishops translated thereto. A man of singular administrative ability, of profound personal piety, and rare charm of manner, he has proved himself a true Father in God, and has won the love and affection of his clergy to an extent that far transcends official or ecclesiastical relationships. He is doing a brilliant work in the diocese of Ottawa.

The present bishop of Niagara, Dr. J. P. DuMoulin, was formerly Rector of St. James', Toronto. He is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and an Irishman by birth.

The total strength of the Church in the Province of Ontario according to the last census (1861) was about 300,000. It must be now in the neighborhood of 400,000. The present population of the Province may now be estimated at about two million.

There is pressing need for the subdivision of the two dioceses of Toronto and Huron. Considering the fact that this was found feasible in the case of the comparatively poor diocese of Ontario, no reasonable impediment to the accomplishment of this devoutly to be desired forward movement appears to exist. These two dioceses include by far the wealthiest region in the Dominion, and what was reasonably easy in the case of the diocese of Ontario,