

Our Mission News.

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"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—ST. MATTHEW XXIV, 14.

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 7.—THE FIRST BISHOP OF RUPERT'S LAND.

By VENERABLE ARCHDEACON PINKHAM, OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

IN accordance with the plan of these Historical Sketches, we now come to "the Great Lone Land," the illimitable territories of the North West. We have seen a bishopric established at Halifax, at Quebec, Toronto, Newfoundland, and Fredericton, N. B., and we now look off to the far west, the land once known as the Hudson's Bay Territory.

Speaking of the spiritual destitution of the inhabitants of the Hudson's Bay Territory in 1815—one hundred and forty-five years after its acquisition by England—Major Semple, Governor of York Fort, who lost his life at the battle of Seven Oaks in May of the year following, said:—"I have trodden the burnt ruins of houses, barns, a mill, a fort, and sharpened stockades, but none of a place of worship, save on the smallest scale. I blush to say that throughout the whole extent of the Hudson's Bay Territories no such building exists."

Five years after this the Hudson's Bay Company sent out Rev. John West, the first Church of England clergyman of the North West, who settled at St. John's, which is now in the city of Winnipeg.

Other missionaries followed from time to time, and the records of their labors are full of heroic deeds and self-denial.

In the autumn of 1841 the band of missionaries was increased by the arrival from England of the Rev. Abraham Cowley, now Archdeacon of Cumberland.

In 1844 a great impetus was given to the labors of our missionaries by the visit of Dr. G. J. Mountain, the third bishop of Quebec.

Bishop Mountain had for some time cherished a desire to visit the Red River Settlement, and had been in correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church Missionary Society, the Hudson's Bay Company, and the clergy in Rupert's Land on the subject of the appointment of a bishop for the Hudson's Bay Territory. On May 19th he embarked in his canoe at La Hine on his voyage of 1,800 miles, and arrived at the Indian Settlement on Sunday morning, June 23rd. His lord-

ship spent eighteen days in the settlement. In these, which included three Sundays, he held an ordination, numerous services, and confirmed 846 persons. On his return the Bishop wrote fully to the Church Missionary Society, closing his letter with a strong and earnest appeal for the immediate establishment of a bishopric in Rupert's Land, and his lordship continued to use every exertion in his power for this object, which to his great delight,



RT. REV. DAVID ANDERSON, D. D.

First Bishop of Rupert's Land.