

THE LATE REV. S. S. WOOD.

THE Church in Canada is again called upon to mourn the loss of one of the oldest and most honoured of her clergy, one of those who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and were the pioneers of missionary labour. To those who are themselves old among us, the name of the Rev. S. S. Wood recalls the early days of the history of the Church, when it was forcing its way into the heart of the backwoods of Canada; it is associated with those of a generation which is fast passing away from among us, and into whose labours we have entered. Mr. Wood was the oldest clergyman, both in years and in orders, in the diocese of Quebec: the last of those who received Priests' Orders at the hands of its first Bishop. He had spent in this diocese the whole of his ministerial life of half a century, with the exception of the year of his diaconate, and two later years; and had served the Church under the episcopate of all its four bishops, and the reign of four British Sovereigns. He enjoyed the esteem, respect and confidence of all the Bishops of Quebec, particularly of Bishop Stewart, who had designed to appoint him to an Archdeaconry, and of his successor, whose more immediate contemporary he was. Between him and Bishop G. J. Mountain, indeed, there subsisted, for upwards of forty years, a brotherly affection springing from a thorough mutual regard and esteem, and cemented by a great similarity in their tastes and views, as well as in many points of their character. And the present Bishop of Quebec, on the occasion of his first visitation, referred to Mr. Wood in terms indicative of almost filial respect.

Mr. Wood was the son of Captain Samuel Wood, of Nunlands, in Berwickshire, an officer who served with credit in the 56th Regiment during the siege of Gibraltar in 1779, of which place he was appointed assistant town-major, while still a lieutenant. His son, Samuel Simpson, was born at Bideford, in North Devon, on 21st February, 1795, and before he was seven years old had the misfortune to lose his father, who died at Martinique in 1801. His mother (who belonged to a Welsh family, which, as well as that of his father, had been for several generations established at Berwick) was at this time residing at Colchester, her two sons, of whom Samuel was the younger, being placed at a school at Debenham, in Suffolk. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Wood removed to the modest paternal mansion of Nunlands. Her elder son entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and became an officer of Artillery. In 1805 Samuel entered the school of the Rev. Jos. Barnes, Vicar of Berwick, where he remained rather more than five

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