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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 99—THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

DURING many years St. James' Church, Toronto, was regarded as the cathedral church of the diocese. It was the original parish church of Toronto when one ecclesiastical edifice, at first of the smallest dimensions, was large enough for the spiritual needs of the inhabitants. As the city grew, and the diocese as well, St. James' was from time to time enlarged, and, after destruction by fire on two separate occasions, rebuilt—the last time in a form somewhat worthy of the city of Toronto. Here the first Bishop of Toronto, Dr. John Strachan, placed his throne. He had himself been rector of St. James' Church for several years, and when elevated to the episcopate naturally selected it as the building which should serve the purpose of a cathedral for the diocese and as such ever since it has been known. To this day it is always called in Toronto St. James' Cathedral, and has the right to that title secured to it by courtesy for all time.

But Bishop Strachan contemplated the establishment of a regular cathedral system for the diocese, and for this purpose in 1843, amongst other generous gifts to various Church objects, he set apart as a donation four hundred acres of land for a cathedraal establishment. From the rents derived from these lands a Cathedral Establishment Fund was formed, the

accounts of which appeared for many years in the Church Society and Synod reports. During these years the idea seems to have been to utilize this endowment in some form or other in connection with St. James'; but when Bishop Strachan died it was deemed that it would be a fitting thing to erect some substantial monument to his memory, and a committee accordingly was appointed to consider the matter. The report of this committee, as presented to synod in 1872, was as follows:

"That the most appropriate mode of carrying into effect an object

in which all the members of the Church in this diocese, both lay and clerical, may justly claim a common and equal interest is the purchase of a site within the city of Toronto, containing from one to two acres, situated in a position regarded as being, in view of the probable future



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