

CHAPTER III

FOUNDATION OF TORONTO, ON INVITATION OF RIGHT REV. DR. POWER

BY a Bull of Pope Gregory XVI, dated December 17th, 1841, the division of the Diocese of Kingston was effected, and all that portion of the Province lying west of the district of Newcastle was erected into a separate diocese. On the same day Right Rev. Mgr. Power, (Vicar General of the diocese of Montreal, P.Q.) was named as first Bishop, with permission to choose the city and title of his See. This humble and holy priest did all in his power to escape the dignity and even implored his Bishop to intercede in his favour that some more worthy priest might be honoured with the mitre. His humble opinion of himself only enhanced his worth in the eyes of others. He was the unanimous choice of the Canadian Episcopacy, and was recognized on all sides as the person best fitted by his wisdom, firmness and piety for the great work of founding a new diocese. Therefore, finding all his efforts to escape the honour to be unavailing, he bowed to the will of God and prepared for the difficult task that lay before him. In accordance with the privilege granted to him, after mature deliberation he selected Toronto as his Episcopal See. His consecration took place on the 8th of May, feast of St. Michael, so memorable in the annals of the Institute, and on the 9th of May he formally named Rev. J. Y. Haye as his Secretary, and on May 16th appointed