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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### No. 89.—THE GENERAL SYNOD.

**W**EDNESDAY, September 13th, 1893, will ever be memorable in the history of the Church of England in Canada. The episcopate had gradually grown, step by step, from the

east to the west; from, indeed, the Atlantic to the Pacific. Each diocese, as it was formed; resolved itself into a synod; but in time it was felt that these synods themselves should have some central organization. Canada at that time embraced only the territory now known as Ontario and Quebec, and was termed Canada West and Canada East. The Provincial Synod of Canada was then formed, with Montreal as the metropolitan city. This synod embraced the dioceses of Quebec, Montreal, Ontario, Toronto, and

Huron. Nova Scotia, Fredericton, and Newfoundland, on the east, and Rupert's Land, on the west, were not included in this Provincial Synod,

because, though British colonies, they were outside the territory known as Canada. Subsequent political events brought about Confederation, by which all British North America, except Newfoundland, became one Dominion under the name of Canada. This brought the dioceses of Nova Scotia and Fredericton into the Provincial Synod of Canada, but not Rupert's Land. At that time there was no railway communication

with the Northwest. It was almost a *terra incognita*, and its incorporation into the Provincial Synod was deemed impracticable. But as years flew by, the Northwest began to develop. New dioceses sprang up, and in time a Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land was formed. Thus two provincial synods existed in Canada; and the old "Provincial Synod of Canada," embracing the eastern dioceses only, was really a misnomer. British Columbia was not included in the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land, so that



THE SECOND BISHOP OF RUPERT'S LAND—NOW PRIMATE OF ALL CANADA.\*

the dioceses in it were "independent."

Churchmen throughout the Dominion, feeling this scattered condition of the Church to be undesirable, kept agitating for union, so that members of the Church from all parts might

\*This represents Archbishop Machray in the early days of his episcopate.