

THE LATE BISHOP STRACHAN OF TORONTO. X

ON All Saints' Day, November 1, 1867, died at his see, the Hon. and Right. Rev. John Strachan, D.D. LL.D., first Lord Bishop of Toronto. The Canadian correspondent of the *Churchman* gives a sketch of the biography of the lamented prelate, from which we subjoin some paragraphs:—

“The venerable prelate was in his 90th year, and died from the decay of nature rather than from acute disease, though it was only within a very short period, a week or two, that any serious fears were entertained that his singularly vigorous constitution was about to give way. He retained his faculties to the last, and received the Holy Communion, at his own vigorous request, on Thursday evening. Bishop Strachan was educated at Aberdeen, and, after taking his degree, removed to the vicinity of St. Andrews, where he formed friendship with Dr. Chalmers and other celebrated Scotchmen, with whom he kept up a correspondence until their deaths. One of his first engagements was the Parochial School of Kettle, in the county of Fife, which he took for the sake of supporting his mother and sisters. While there, one of his pupils was the afterwards celebrated painter, Sir David Wilkie; and it is an interesting fact, and one gratefully acknowledged by Sir David in after life, that it was to the future Bishop's appreciation of his promising talent, and his consequent persuasion of his uncle to send him to the celebrated Raeburn, that the painter owed his future prosperous career.

“In 1799, Mr. Strachan came to Canada, at the invitation of the then Governor-General, to take the superintendence of a proposed University; but on arriving here he found the Governor gone, the University for the present abandoned, and no provision made for him. Consequently, as he often stated, he would have returned back to Scotland, had he possessed the means of doing so. As it was, he took pupils, and became eminently successful, numbering amongst his pupils many of those who were afterwards amongst the chief men of the province; prominent amongst whom was, perhaps, his after dearest friend through life, the late Sir John Robinson, Bart., Chief Justice of the province.

“It is understood, that though brought up himself as a Presbyterian, the Bishop's mother was an Episcopalian, and not only had him baptized by a Scotch Episcopalian clergyman, but gave him such a bias in favour of the Church, that it is not surprising that in a few years after his arrival in Canada he should have taken holy Orders, being ordained Deacon by the first Bishop Mountain on the 2d of May, 1803, and Priest on the 3d of June in the following year. He became Rector of Cornwall, in the eastern part of Upper Canada, and Master of its Grammar School, where he remained about nine years, being made Rector of York (now Toronto) in 1812. By this time his influence in the province had become so considerable that he was made an Executive Councillor by Royal Warrant in 1818. From this period he may be said to have been, for many years, the ruling mind in whatever concerned the province in either Church or State. In 1825 Dr. Strachan was constituted Archdeacon of York, in