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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 118.—REV. E. J. FESSENDEN, B.A.

**T**HROUGH the sudden and unexpected death of the Rev. E. J. Fessenden, rector of St. John's, Ancaster, on Saturday, January 18th, the diocese of Niagara has been plunged in profound grief, and the Church in Canada has lost one of

her brightest and most devoted sons. Few men were better fitted than the Rev. Mr. Fessenden for the life and work of an ecclesiastic. With a loving and winning disposition, a deeply spiritual and devotional nature, the possessor of a keen, active, and logical mind—physically such as might have been taken for a model for the old masters—he was a personage you would expect to meet in a cathedral close or Amen corner in the old world, not such as you would expect to find in a rural parish in Canada. He has been called away to other and higher work and better reward. His place cannot be filled. His high ideals for the advancement of the Church in her spiritual and educational life may not be attained in our generation, but

it must yet come, for, as Moses saw the pattern in the Mount by which the Tabernacle was to be made, so he seemed to see that divine ideal of the Master's kingdom which was present with those who laid the foundations of our spiritual Zion."

So read the obituary notice in one of our Church papers; yet in still further illustration we enter into fuller detail of the life of him who has so suddenly entered into rest. Born September 18th, 1839, of United Empire Loyal-

ist descent, brought up in the Eastern Townships, Quebec, Mr. Fessenden graduated at McGill College, Montreal. A licentiate of theology from Bishop's College, Lennoxville, he entered the mission field in the deanery of Bedford, where for several years he served the Church with the devoted energy and vigor which characterized his life work. In 1865 he married Clementina Trenholm, fourth daughter of the late Edward Trenholm, of Trenholm, Quebec,

descended on the maternal side from the martyred Bishop Ridley. Mrs. Fessenden, with three sons, survives him, the youngest son having died a few months before his father

Removing to the diocese of Toronto, he built up strong congregations in Mono and Albion, and was instrumental in the building of the Anglican church erected at Sandhill. Fergus and Clifton still pay loving tribute to his ministrations. Upon the resignation and removal to England of the Rev. D. I. F. McLeod, of Chippawa, the late Bishop Fuller appointed Mr. Fessenden rector of the small but historic parish of Chippawa. Early in the twenties came to Chippawa the Rev. Wm. Leeming as a missionary, sent out by the S. P. G. Old Trinity

Church was built by Rev. Mr. Leeming, but was burned during the rebellion year of '37 by a band of marauding sympathizers from "across the line." The present church soon replaced the destroyed building, and is unique in its endowment, in that it is the sole gift of a layman, the late Thomas Street. There are also two smaller endowments—a poor relief parish fund, and a churchyard repair fund. From time to time gifts have been added by members of the congregation, enriching the church appointments,



THE LATE REV. E. J. FESSENDEN, B.A.,  
*Rector of Ancaster.*