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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 129—THE REV. DR. BREYNTON.



HE Rev. Dr. Breynton is probably the first colonial Rector among those possessions of Great Britain which remained loyal to her. In the territory now occupied by the United States there were rectors of churches at a much earlier date than the time of Dr. Breynton, but inasmuch as that region became an independent nation, the history of the Church there belongs to an entirely separate people. Looking, however, at the colonies of Great Britain as they are to-day, Dr. Breynton is probably the first colonial rector and St. Paul's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, the first colonial church.

When Cornwallis arrived at Nova Scotia in 1749 with his band of settlers, who at once formed the town of Halifax on the site still occupied by the city of that name, he had with him a clergyman and a schoolmaster. The clergyman was the Rev. Mr. Anwell, and another, the Rev. William Tutty, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, arrived shortly afterwards. The latter gentleman was appointed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel the first resident minister of Halifax. He does not seem, however, to have taken the title of "Rector." He was simply a missionary, no parochial organization having been formed. His salary, on which he could scarcely have been "passing rich," was less than three hundred and fifty dollars a year.

Arrangements were made in 1750 for the erection of a church, and from this sprang in time St. Paul's Church. Mr. Tutty received as his assistant, in 1752, the Rev. John Breynton. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Tutty, who was a worthy and painstaking missionary, returned to England, where he took ill and died. Mr. Breynton, being thus in full charge, received as his assistant the Rev. Mr. Wood, who came to him from a place called New Brunswick, in New Jersey.

In the year 1755, a year marked by the destruction of General Braddock's army, and by the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia, Dr. Breynton speaks of the church (St. Paul's) as completed without forming "a very hand, some appearance, and as aisled and plastered within and pewed after a rough fashion." He mentions the population of Halifax at that time as 1,300, of whom 300 were church people. In 1759 the parish of St. Paul's was properly and legally formed and churchwardens appointed, one on the nomination of the "Rev. John Breynton and Rev. John Wood, Vicar," and the other elected by the vestry. Thus the Rev. John Breynton became first Rector of St. Paul's



THE REV. DR. BREYNTON,
First Rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax.

and for many years went in and out among his people ministering to them as a faithful pastor. He had persons of all kinds and descriptions within his congregation, from the Governor down to the negro or the half clad Indian.

An organ was secured for St. Paul's Church in 1765 under peculiar circumstances. A ship was seized and her cargo sold. Part of her cargo was an organ, intended for a Roman Catholic Church. This the St. Paul's congre-