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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### NO. 13—THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

By Rev. J. K. McMorine, M. A., Rector of St. James' Church, Kingston, Ont.

**T**HE student of Canadian history is aware that a great part of that extensive district now known to Churchmen as the Diocese of Algoma, was pretty fully explored by Jesuit missionaries two hundred and fifty years ago. These adventurous men had gazed in

reverent admiration upon the noble scenery of the Upper Ottawa where good Mr. Bliss carries on the pioneering labor of the Church to-day; the splash of their paddles had been heard on Lake Nipissing, and they had skirted from east to utmost west the shores of the great inland mere where now the "stately ships go on" and where aboriginal modes of living may still be seen in grotesque proximity to the luxurious civilization of the European. The earliest and one of the noblest of these heralds of the cross was one Isaac Jogues, whose brief and pathetic career

was brought to a close by the hatchet of an Iroquois after a ministry of only ten years. In 1641 he and Charles Raymbault, a brother Jesuit, had passed along the rocky and romantic northern shore of Lake Huron in their birch canoe, had lit their camp fires on the wooded islets which bestud the North Channel and Lake George, and had stayed their journeyings only when, in the autumn of the same year, they reached the rapids at the eastern point of Lake Superior. These rapids were then, as they are now, a favorite fishing

ground of the Indians, and it need not surprise us to learn that the brethren found there an encampment of 2,000 Ojebways. To these, during their brief stay, they preached the faith of Jesus, and having, perhaps given to the spot the name it has since borne, they hastened eastward ere the protracted reign of ice had made escape impossible. Seven years later (1648), two missions were established among the Nipissings and other tribes roaming through the vast wilderness, north, northeast, and northwest of Lake Huron, while a third was begun at Manitoulin Island. Twenty-one years

later still (1669) Claude Dablon and Jacques Marquette, also Jesuits, pushing valiantly westward, again planted the Cross at Sault Ste Marie. At this time it was determined to establish a permanent mission at a point so favorable for meeting crowds of Indians. Accordingly, a square fort, enclosing a rude chapel and house, was built, and extensive agricultural operations were begun. On May 25th, of the following year (1670) they were visited by Dollier de Casson and Galignec, two priests sent out by the seminary of St. Supplice at



RT. REV. F. D. FAUQUIER, D. C. L.,  
First Bishop of Algoma. Born 1817; died December 7th, 1881.

Montreal. The reception tendered the latter was not very cordial, and they soon retraced their steps. About the same time a second mission was established by the Jesuits on Manitoulin Island, and assigned to Louis Andre; and in 1671 we read of the presence at Sault Ste Marie of four priests, Claude Dablon, Superior of the Upper Lake Missions, Louis Andre, just mentioned, Gabriel Druilletes and Claude Allouez. But, as I have said, these hardy explorers had ventured further west than Sault Ste Marie. Dablon visited Michipicoten