

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

AND MISSION NEWS

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

Vol. III.

JULY, 1889.

No 37.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 37—THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

THE fine natural situation and metropolitan appearance of Montreal," says Mr. G. Mercer Adam in his "Canada from Sea to Sea," "which ranks as the first city of the Dominion, will be admitted by all who visit it. Its massive and busy wharves, its thronged thoroughfares, its spacious public squares and substantial stone buildings, with 'the Mountain' rising 700 feet above the river, and having fine broad streets and numerous palatial residences on its terraced slopes, combine to give it the palm over the other cities of the Dominion. Like Quebec its foundation dates back to an early period in the French occupation of Canada, and to-day its population is largely of French origin. The city, which is situated on an island at the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers, was founded in 1642, after a solemn religious service by the Sieur de Maisonneuve. On that occasion the Indian name 'Hochelaga,' which it had previously borne, was superseded by that of 'Ville Marie.' Later on it took the name of Montreal from Mount Royal, the picturesque eminence which crowns the city, and from the charming drives about which, many beautiful views of the town, the noble river and the country in the vicinity may be had. The evidences of the racial and ecclesiastical origin of Montreal will be noted by the tourist on all sides. Not only are two-thirds of the present inhabitants French, but French, in the main, are the civil and religious institutions of the place. Here the Romish Church has her special and almost exclusive preserve. In every quarter of the town you will find her churches, hospitals, convents and other

places of religious retreat, while on almost every thoroughfare are to be met the black robed representatives, male and female, of her various ecclesiastical and eleemosynary institutions. The real estate owned by both orders (Jesuit and Sulpician) of the Church, in this paradise of the Roman priesthood, is enormous.

"Considering the limited English-speaking and Protestant population of Montreal, the churches, colleges, schools, hospitals and other institutions of the Protestant denominations, are by no means few or unimportant. The number of churches, indeed, is large of the principal Protestant bodies, and many of their edifices are handsome and, as a rule, beautifully situated. Without being invidious, one may point especially to Christ Church Cathedral, for as fine an example of Church architecture as the city can boast. Each of the more prominent denominations has its own theological college, four of which are in affiliation with McGill University, which was founded by Royal Charter in 1821.

"The drives in and about Montreal and around Mount Royal Park are full of beauty and the delightful views to be had en route, will well repay the trouble and the modest amount expended upon them. The Victoria Bridge,

which spans the St. Lawrence at Montreal, can perhaps best be seen from the mountain; or if a closer view is desired one may take a suburban train to Lachine and from there run down the rapids by steamer, passing under one of the immense piers of the bridge. This will be found a wild and exhilarating experience."

The Diocese of Montreal is territorially large, embracing the counties of Bagot, Shefford, Brome, Richelieu, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, Iberville, Missisquoi, Vercheres, Chambly, St. John, Laprairie, Napierville, Chateauguay, Huntingdon, Beauhar-



THE RT. REV. WILLIAM BENNETT BOND, M.A., LL. D.
Third Bishop of Montreal.