

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

AND MISSION NEWS

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

Vol. II.

APRIL, 1888.

No. 22.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 22.—THE SECOND BISHOP OF RUPERT'S LAND.

THE Most Reverend Robert Machray, D. D., LL.D., Bishop of Rupert's Land and Metropolitan, is a son of Robert Machray, Advocate of Aberdeen, Scotland. He was born in 1832 and in due course became a student of King's College, Aberdeen, where he graduated in 1851. He afterwards entered Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where in 1855 he graduated thirty-fourth wrangler, being also a scholar and prizeman of his college. Shortly after he was elected a Fellow of his college, a position he still holds. He was ordained deacon the same year by the Bishop of Ely, and priest the year following. In 1858 he was elected Dean of his college. In 1860 and 1861 he was University Examiner, and in 1865 he became University Ramsden preacher. He also became Vicar of Madingly. In January, 1865, the see of Rupert's Land, rendered vacant by the resignation of its first Bishop, Dr. Anderson, was by Her Majesty's command offered to and accepted by him. His consecration took place at Lambeth in the June following, the officiating prelates being the



THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT MACHRAY, D.D., LL.D.
Bishop of Rupert's Land and Metropolitan.

Archbishop of Canterbury (Longley), and the Bishops of London (Tait), Ely (Harold Browne), and Aberdeen. Bishop Machray reached his diocese on the 5th of October, 1865, and his episcopate has been marked by changes that to those who do not know the circumstances of the country and its rapid development, appear almost incredible. Previously to his coming there was but

little diocesan organization. The number of clergy in the immense diocese which stretched from Labrador to the Rocky Mountains, and from the International Boundary Line to the Arctic Ocean was twenty-three. In 1866 the Bishop held his first conference. There was another the year following which resolved itself into a synod. In 1873 the Synod of Rupert's Land adopted a Canon for the organization of the Church in Rupert's Land, by the division of the diocese into four sees, viz, Rupert's Land, its Bishop being Metropolitan, Saskatchewan, Moosonee and Athabasca. In 1883 there was a further readjust-

ment by which two more Dioceses were formed.

Previously to Bishop Machray's arrival almost nothing had been done in the Diocese in the direction of self help. The stipends of the clergy and catechists throughout the Diocese came altogether from the Church Missionary Society and other English societies, and even the school teach-