

The First Rector.

A SKETCH.



HOSTS of students and friends mourn the death of Rev. James M. McGuckin O. M. I., D. D. which took place April the 7th in Victoria, British Columbia. The deceased was born 68 years ago in Cookstown, Tyrone Co., Ireland. After obtaining a thorough commercial education he entered into business with his father, gaining therein a knowledge of men of all conditions in life that proved afterwards to be so much service to him in his priestly and religious career. The year 1859 found him no longer a man of the world but joyfully making his perpetual vows as Oblate of Mary Immaculate at Sicklinghall, Yorkshire, England. Thence he went to Marseilles, France, to finish his philosophical and theological studies. It was at a time when the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, while all the while continuing their original mission at home, namely the evangelization of the poor and uncared for of society, with the blessing of God took an unlooked for development and had become the pioneers of civilization and religion in several unexplored countries. The ambition to engage in the movement seized Rev. Bro. McGuckin and he was sent to help his brethern in the great Northwest of Canada. He was ordained in 1863 by Bishop Demers, the first missionary bishop of Vancouver Island. His first charge was St. Louis school in Victoria, B. C., the then only Catholic educational institution in the colony. He organized a complete course of commercial and classical studies. Thanks to the impetus received under his direction, St. Louis College soon went to the front, its classrooms thronged by the youth of British Columbia, Vancouver Island and even of several of the States to the south.

A man of great natural tact and affability was needed for the ministry in the "Cariboo district." The discovery of gold had brought the