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## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY,

No. 53.—THE MOST REV. ASHTON OXENDEN, D. D.  
LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL, AND METROPOLITAN  
OF CANADA.

The changes through which the Anglican Church in Canada has passed within the last twenty years have been of a marked and most important kind: and though preceding, still of the same character as—and it may have been foreshadowing—the similar development of the country's political institutions. Dr. Fulford was the last of "the last three Bishops appointed by the Crown for the Anglican Church of Canada," as well in respect of his consecration and appointment to the See of Montreal, as in respect of his demise, which occurred on the 9th Sept., 1868. Mr. Fenning's Taylor says, in his preface to the excellent work, the title of which we have quoted, (speaking of Bishops Fulford, Mountain, and Strachan) "Within a period of less than six years, all these eminent men have passed to their rest, and . . . the function of the State with respect to the appointment of Bishops may be said to have expired with them." This, in truth, is a brief record of the result of the movement, caused partly by the growth of the Church, partly by her altered relations to the State, which culminated in 1860, when letters patent were issued in the name of Her Majesty, creating Bishop Fulford the Metropolitan of Canada, and elevating Montreal to the dignity of the Metropolitan See. Much of interest may be found in the book referred to, not only with reference to the Anglican Church throughout this country, but especially in the diocese of Montreal;

votes to those names sent down with the approval of the House of Bishops, and, unfortunately, it happened that the Synod and their Lordships utterly failed to come to a common understanding with respect to who should fill the important position. Under these circumstances, an adjournment for six months was resolved upon, in the

British North American Episcopate and others, the name of the Rev. Ashton Oxenden was sent down, the last one transmitted from the House of Bishops, and its mention was hailed with applause. On the first vote, Canon Oxenden was elected by 57 out of 63 clerical, and 44 out of 59 lay votes cast. After this large majority, it was but

a graceful act on the part of the minority to suggest the unanimous confirmation of the election. The result was hailed with very great satisfaction throughout the diocese; and, indeed, among Anglican circles generally, for the first "hitch" in the election had caused no little uneasiness among the most earnest minds of the Church. The Bishops, after the election, entered the Synod, and the warmest congratulatory addresses were delivered on the happy termination of the long-pending issue. It was not known then, however, whether Dr. Oxenden would accept it; for, as remarked by one of their Lordships, it was not deemed prudent to consult the candidates in advance, as, in the great uncertainty of election, it was probable that the most worthy might have declined a nomination. The Synod adjourned until September, to give the Bishop-elect time to consider whether he would accept the office; but the proceedings of the Synod having been made known to him without delay, he agreed to leave the pleasant pastoral duties of the parish of Plunkly, in the county of Kent, and enter upon the more important and arduous duties imposed upon him in a distant field. This decision was only in strict harmony with his previous long career and earnest labours in the cause of



THE MOST REV. ASHTON OXENDEN, D.D.  
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

and we can fancy that the strong strain to which the new order of things was submitted in the effort to elect a successor to the Most Rev. Dr. Fulford, must have painfully impressed the author with the difficulties of the new position, for we understand the work was completed before the election of Dr. Oxenden as his successor. The Diocesan Synod of Montreal, in conjunction with the Venerable House of Bishops, met shortly after the death of Dr. Fulford, to elect his successor. But the Metropolitan Diocese had to pay for its dignity by confining its

hope that time would remove the difficulty. This hope was not a vain one, for at the meeting in May, 1869, the Rev. Canon Oxenden, of the Arch-diocese of Canterbury, was chosen by a large majority of votes, followed by a resolution unanimously confirming his election. But even this result was not reached without much earnest debate and anxious deliberation. The Synod met on the 11th May, the first day being devoted to the verification of credentials. On the fourth day, and after votes innumerable had been cast for the several members of the

the Church. Though devotedly attentive to the duties of his pastorate, he yet found time to give up a considerable portion of his attention to authorship in the cause of religion, and for the spread of the influence of the Church among the people. An Evangelical of a strongly pronounced stamp, he appears yet to have had the faculty of never giving offence to any shade of opinion in the Church; and, to judge from the popularity of his works, he must have shared largely in the sympathy of other Protestant bodies. We have before us a list of twenty-six