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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 98.—IN MEMORIAM, ACTON WINDEVER SILLITOE.

**S**INCE the first General Synod of the Dominion of Canada, held last September in the city of Toronto, Church people in this part of Canada possessed a clearer idea of the bishops of the far west than they had before. These men, all of them, to a greater or less extent, engaged in pioneer mission work, mingled with their brethren from the older and more settled parts of the country, and gave a new interest to their deliberations. Prominent amongst these was the Right Rev. Acton W. Sillitoe, the first Bishop of New Westminster. Fired with a deep interest for this first gathering of churchmen from all parts of the Dominion, Bishop Sillitoe lent his aid to the deliberations by several words of sound and practical advice. The bishops of all Canada then met for the first time—never, as the same body of men, to meet again. The first to be called to his rest was the Bishop of New Westminster, who,

at his own home in New Westminster, passed quietly away, close to the hour of midnight, on Saturday, the 9th of June. For some time he had been ailing, and was prostrated with a severe attack of pneumonia, from which he was destined never to rally. Up to the time of his last attack he kept battling bravely against his bodily pain and weakness, in order to perform his episcopal duties: and it was only when the

warning of the approaching end was too plainly written that he resigned himself to say his last earthly farewell. He sent for the registrar of his diocese, Mr. Justinian Pelly, and gave directions for his closing moments, after which, rejoicing in freedom from pain, he lingered till close upon the dawn of the first day of the week, and then breathed his last.

Acton W. Sillitoe was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1862, taking his M.A. in 1866. He was made a deacon in 1869 by the Bishop of Lichfield, and advanced to the priesthood in the following

year. His first position was that of curate of Brierly Hill. In 1871 he was curate of All Saints', Wolverhampton; then in 1873 curate of Ellenbrook, after which, in 1876, he accepted a chaplaincy at Geneva. A year afterwards he became chaplain to the British legation at Darmstadt, and to the Princess Alice. Here, in 1879, nine years after his ordination to the diaconate, he received a call from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts to be a missionary bishop. The country in which he was to serve was British Columbia, at that



RIGHT REV. ACTON W. SILLITOE, D.D.,

First Bishop of New Westminster. Consecrated Nov. 1st, 1879; died June 9th, 1894.

time probably as much of a *terra incognita* to Mr. Sillitoe as it was to the most of the world. British Columbia, on the western shores of the Pacific Ocean, had been under the charge of a missionary bishop since 1859. It was resolved now to subdivide it into three dioceses, Bishop Hills, the original bishop, taking the island of Vancouver, and the mainland being divided into two dioceses, one to be under the charge