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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 76.—IN MEMORIAM—THE METROPOLITAN OF CANADA.

THE death of the most Rev. John Medley, Metropolitan of Canada and first Bishop of Fredericton, marks an epoch in the history of the Canadian Church, for he was one of the bishops appointed in the early days of the Church of England in this country when it was beginning

to make its way after having received what was too long denied it—the precious gift of the episcopate. This gift commenced in the east and gradually extended itself westward. When the Rev. John Medley was sent out to be Bishop of Fredericton, with jurisdiction over the whole of New Brunswick, he came to preside over the fifth diocese founded in this country, and of these only one, as yet, had extended to the west. This diocese, under the name of the Diocese of Toronto, was then the only episcopal jurisdiction

in British North America west of Quebec, and to the new Bishop of Fredericton this enormous territory must have been almost a *terra incognita*. In his own portion of the country he had the Bishop of Nova Scotia on the one hand and the Bishop of Quebec on the other, both of whom could be reached by a long and tedious journey, it is true, but still in a time, to some extent, reasonable, and so, by a sea voyage, could Newfoundland be visited; but Toronto, away off in "Upper Canada," in the

days when there were no railroads, must have seemed, indeed, in the dim distance. The Canadian Pacific Railway will convey passengers now very swiftly from St. John, New Brunswick, to Toronto; but when Dr. Medley, in 1845, was made Bishop of Fredericton, it was a journey not to be thought of unless as an act of absolute necessity. Nova Scotia and Quebec, for a long time, were the only two dioceses known in British North America. Then, in 1839, Newfoundland and Toronto were added to the number, and the episcopate began to

move itself as if stirred by the gradual extension of population, as the immigrant, in all directions, was making for himself a home. When the forest gave way to the settlement, and the settlement established villages and towns, there was the demand for clergymen, and with them a call for bishops. The Bishop of Nova Scotia had jurisdiction over the whole of that Province together with New Brunswick, and when, in 1845, it was resolved to erect the latter into a separate see, the Rev. John Medley, an English rector—rector of



THE LATE REV. JOHN MEDLEY, D.D.

Metropolitan of Canada and First Bishop of Fredericton.

St. Thomas' Church, Exeter, was appointed by Lord Stanley, the Colonial Secretary, to be its bishop. Thus was he contemporary with Bishop John Inglis, of Halifax; Bishop G. J. Mountain, of Quebec; Bishop Feild, of Newfoundland; and Bishop Strachan, of Toronto. So that, in the recent death of the metropolitan, a bishop of the early days has been taken from our midst.

John Medley was the son of Mr. George Medley, of Grosvenor Place, London, England.