

# Our Mission News.

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"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—ST. MATTHEW xxiv, 14.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

By REV A SPENCER, CLERICAL SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD.

**T**HE history of the Church in what is now the Diocese of Ontario begins with the close of the American War of Independence in 1783. That part of the then Province of Quebec, now called Ontario,

was subdivided into four districts named respectively (beginning from the east) Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau and Hesse. The two former (constituting what is now the front part of the Diocese of Ontario) were the earliest settled portions of Upper Canada with the exception of Niagara and the neighborhood of Detroit.

The earliest settlements in Lunenburg were made principally by German and Highland Scotch disbanded regiments, and the population was ministered to religiously by a Roman Catholic priest and a Presbyterian minister in Glengarry, and by a German Lutheran minister

in Stormont and Dundas. The district of Mecklenburg was first settled by members of Sir John Johnson's Royal Regiment of New York (which was disbanded at Kingston on June 24th, 1784), and other United Empire Loyalists. Of these comparatively few were Church people. Even so late as 1792, when the population of Upper Canada was

estimated at 50,000, so competent an authority as the Honorable Richard Cartwright (grandfather of Sir Richard) thought himself "fully warranted in asserting that in all the Province of Upper Canada there are not 100 families who have been educated in this persuasion," *i. e.*, the Church of England.

The chief centres of Church life were at Kingston and Ernest Town (now Bath). Here accordingly

missionaries were settled at an early date—the Rev. John Stuart at Kingston in 1786, and the Rev. John Langhorn at Bath in 1787. The latter is still remembered by the oldest inhabitant for his earnest and unwearied labors in building up the Church. He was "instant in season, out of season." For example, the sight of a child instantly suggested catechising, and he seldom allowed to pass by unimproved any opportunity of fortifying the youthful mind with the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, or some other portion of the Church Catechism. His labors were occasionally extended



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into the neighboring townships of Fredericksburg and Adolphustown, and to the adjoining county of Prince Edward, and were prolonged to 1813, his last recorded official act being a baptism administered on May 19th. St. John's Church, Bath, one of the oldest, if not the oldest of existing Church edifices in Ontario, was opened for