

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN MEDLEY, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF FREDERICTON AND
METROPOLITAN OF CANADA.

THE METROPOLITAN of Canada, in point of age, is, we believe, the *oldest* Bishop in the Anglican Communion. The Bishop of Guiana in his senior by Consecration, although three or four years younger. John Medley, was born in London, England, on the 19th of December, 1804. After several years of instruction at a private boarding school, he matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford, from whence he graduated with Honours in the year 1826, and became a Master of Arts of the University four years later. In 1826 he married Christiana Bacon, a daughter of John Bacon, jr., a sculptor of London, by whom he had eight children—five sons and three daughters. He was ordained Deacon in 1828, and took his first charge at a small country village in Devonshire called Southleigh. Here he remained three years, when he became Vicar of St. John's, Truro, in Cornwall. At Truro he stayed until 1838, when he accepted the Vicarage of St. Thomas', Exeter. Seven years of hard and trying work were spent in this parish, during which the Bishop became one of the Translators of the Early Fathers and took up study of Church Music as well as Church architecture. These were years of sorrow to him likewise, since three of his children died, and shortly after this loss his grief was increased by the death of his wife and his aged mother.

In 1844, Rev. John Medley was appointed Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, and in 1845 was consecrated at Lambeth Palace, First Bishop of the newly created See of Fredericton. On St. Barnabas' Day, June 11th, 1845, the First Bishop of Fredericton was duly installed in Christ Church, the old Parish Church of Fredericton, Rev. George Coster being Rector of the Parish, and Archdeacon of the Diocese.

When the Bishop arrived in Fredericton he found the poor almost entirely excluded from the privilege of Christian worship in the Church. His first work, after organizing his Diocese, was to build a small stone Chapel which should be free to the poor. This Chapel was completed and duly consecrated in 1846, and proved of great use and value to the poor of Christ's flock. It was the first example of Gothic architecture in New Brunswick, and as a consequence was the object of severe criticism by those who went to see it during its construction. While this Chapel was being built the Bishop undertook a far heavier work in the erection of a Cathedral. Many were the difficulties which met him on all sides at the outset of this undertaking, but by steadfast perseverance and indomitable courage the difficulties were overcome, the Cathedral was finished, the old Church pulled down, the St. Anne's Chapel made the Parish Church, and the beautiful Cathedral Church, a cut of which is herewith given to our readers, was consecrated on Wednesday, August 31st, 1853, in the presence of an immense crowd of worshippers, many of whom were representative

Bishops, Clergy and Laymen from the Upper Provinces of Canada and from the United States.

A short description of the Cathedral may not be out of place. It is situated at the Eastern end of the City of Fredericton, within a short distance of the bank of the noble river St. John, and is the first object that strikes the eye as an approach is made to the city by water. A more desirable and beautiful site cannot be conceived. The style of the architecture is that called second pointed, or decorated. The ground plan is cruciform with central tower and spire. The nave, including the north and south aisles, is 84 by 62 feet, and is divided in five bays, the porch being projected from the second bay on the south side from the west end. There is a western porch or rather triple arcade, flanked by buttresses. The Font of Caen stone is a striking feature of the interior. The area of the tower 26 feet 6 inches square forms the choir, which is backed by north and south transepts,

Sunday, oftener twice, unless hindered by sickness.

At the meeting of the Provincial Synod at Montreal, in September, 1879, the Bishops of the Church in Canada elected The Bishop of Fredericton as their Metropolitan, his claim being that of seniority, and since that date he has presided at their Councils with marked ability and unflinching energy. In May 1881 Bishop Kingdon was appointed Coadjutor to the Bishop of Fredericton, but though now 84 years of age the latter still takes fully half the work of his Diocese, as well as the many duties which surround the high office of Metropolitan. In 1868 The Bishop crossed the Atlantic in response to the summons of The Archbishop of Canterbury to attend at the Lambeth Conference, and there took his fair share of work in the deliberations of that august Assembly, besides visiting his many friends and acquaintances in the Mother Country, as well as the old haunts of the years of his youth. Whilst in the Mother Country

he was the worthy recipient of many attentions, being invited to preach in many of the Cathedrals and prominent Churches: and as well because of his high office as of his marked abilities and profound learning received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Universities of Cambridge and Durham.

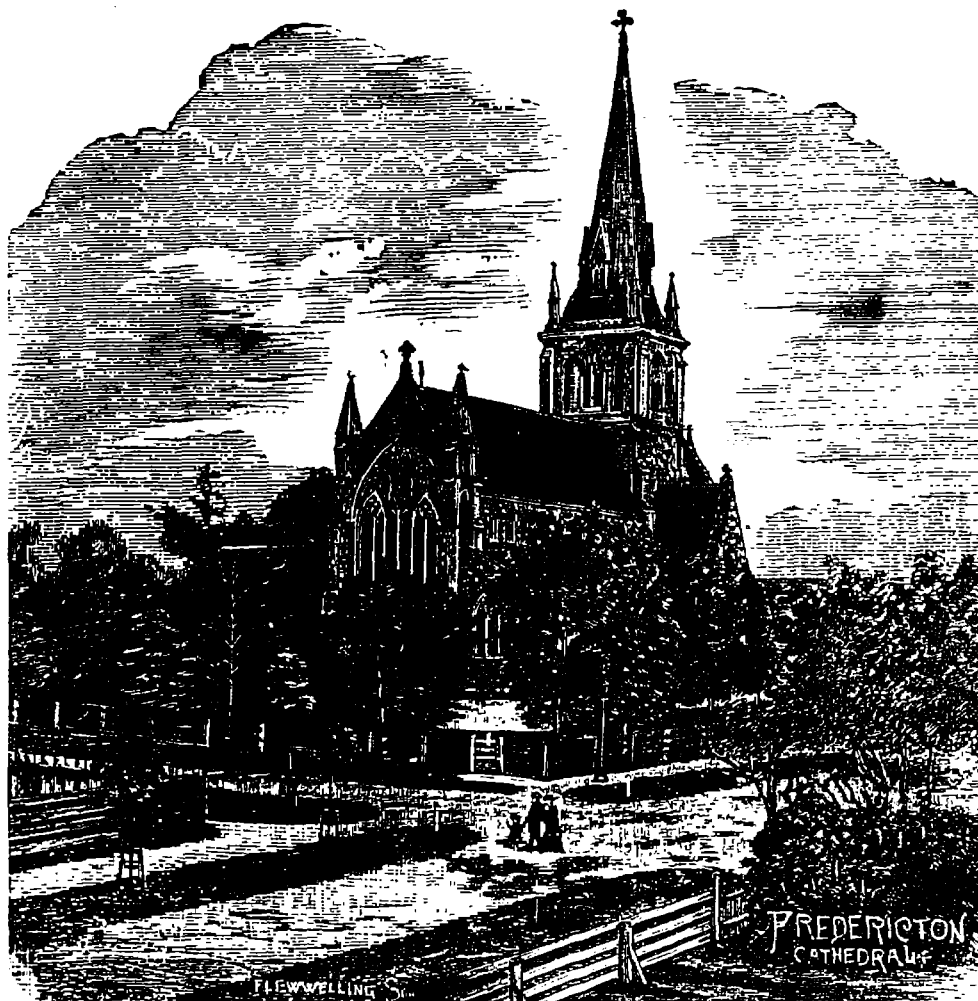
The love and esteem in which His Lordship is held in his own Diocese was evidenced by the warm hearted address presented to him by the Clergy and Laity on his return on Sept. 17th, 1885, to carry on the work of his Diocese; and in which we hope he may with God's blessing labour on for some years to come. As we write this we hear, however, with extreme regret and some concern that His Lordship is suffering from the effects of a severe fall on the ice, which took place shortly after last Christmas; but we sincerely hope that the trouble will only be temporary and that we may see his welcome face in Montreal at the next Provincial Synod Meeting in September, 1889.

We conclude this imperfect sketch of one, who has made a lasting impression for good upon the Church in this land, and who will be long remembered with affection by Churchmen in all parts of the

Ecclesiastical Province, with the following extract from another sketch of the Bishop's life:

"What daring scribe will venture to dwell with needless emphasis on what all who read this journal know as the living and acted sermon of a life-time, that embodiment of Christian and gentleman, blended so that each aspect is the necessary supplement of the other? Who will dare to repeat the genial stories which the good Bishop (not seldom at his own expense) loves to relate, and relates so well, of amusing experiences in his travels, and the records of intercourse with many minds, of which none left him unimproved, or uncheered by courtesy or friendly word? Who will speak of that perfect example of simplicity and domestic life, so needful above all in a land where wealth confers the chief distinction, and where ostentation too often passes for the hall-mark of social eminence."

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THE CATHEDRAL—FREDERICTON, N. B.

which contain the organs; on one side the great and swell and organs, and on the other the choir organ. Beyond the choir is the Sanctuary, 49 feet 6 inches by 26 feet 6 inches. This is approached from the choir by four steps, and three more intervene before the altar is reached. The windows are all of stained glass of English manufacture. The building is entirely of stone, excepting the spire. There is an admirable peal of eight bells in the tower; the tenor bell weighing 2,000 lbs. These were cast by Messrs. Warner, of London, and each bears a Latin inscription. The cost of the Cathedral was \$61,600; the greater part of which large sum was personally collected by the Bishop himself.

Ever since the consecration Day the voice of prayer and praise has daily sounded within the walls of this Cathedral, and the Festivals and Fasts of the Church have all these years been observed, and it is the Bishop's greatest delight in life to worship in its holy courts and lead others also thither. Whenever in residence the Bishop always preaches at least once every