

Gift of Head of the Lake
Historical Society

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THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE COLONIAL EPISCOPATE.

As the world grows older, commemorations of past events, jubilees, centenaries, and celebrations of epochs still more remote than these terms describe, rapidly increase upon us. It is well for nations and peoples to look back on those great eras which have been new departures in their progress, turning points in their history, and to gather up the many lessons which they teach. In the present year the English-speaking peoples in all parts of the world are thankfully commemorating the completion of the fifty years of Her Majesty's reign, a half century more fruitful in beneficent events than any that has gone before. It is not the province of this little paper to record the progress which has been made in political, or social, or scientific, or commercial fields during these eventful years. There will be no lack of chronicles which will set forth for after ages the great things in these departments of human progress which this nation of ours has seen and done since 1837. These pages will endeavour to chronicle something of the progress of that Kingdom of which we are all members, the Kingdom that is not of this world, that is older than the oldest of earthly dynasties, and is destined to survive them all.

The Church to which we belong has few epochs in her long history more important than the new point of departure which was taken just one hundred years ago, when, on August 12, 1787, the gifts of the Episcopate were conferred on Dr. Charles Inglis, Bishop of Nova Scotia, the first of the Apostolic Band who now in all parts of the British Empire have planted the Church of the Anglican succession in the integrity of her Apostolic organisation and with the fulness of her Evangelic truth.

This consummation, for which many good men had striven and prayed, and had fallen asleep without receiving an answer to their prayers, had been long delayed. It is not easy to fix the exact date of the commencement of British colonisation or of the expansion into other lands of the English Church. As may be expected, it was at first eminently unsystematic, and the most far-seeing had but little idea of

*The First
Colonial
Bishop.*