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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 42—REV. JOHN LANGTRY.

**H**HE Rev. John Langtry is a Canadian by birth, though of Irish extraction. His early years were spent on a farm. At fifteen he was sent to school with a view to his preparation for the ministry, for which he had about that time conceived a strong desire. His preliminary education was for the most part carried on privately by Rev. A. Pyne, the Rev. Dr. Green, and the Rev. Charles Dade. He entered Trinity College, Toronto, on the day it was opened, and was the first graduate of that institution admitted to Holy Orders. He was ordained Deacon two days after he had obtained the canonical age, and was at once appointed to the travelling mission of West Simcoe and East Grey. The work was overwhelming. The two principal alternate Sunday services were sixty miles apart. Around these were scattered thirteen other stations, occupied at intervals. Between them lay twenty miles of unbroken woods, to be traversed by a lumberman's road every week. The land was overrun with sects. There were twenty-one Methodist preachers of various kinds laboring in the district assigned to Mr. Langtry.

After three years of this work Mr. Langtry was settled in Collingwood, the most important station in his extensive mission. Here he remained till ten years of his ministerial life had passed. There are twelve clergymen working in what was Mr. Langtry's first mission, and there are twenty-seven churches where there was then only one. At the end of ten years he removed to York Mills, five miles from Toronto, under promise of appointment, in a short time, to that Rectory. But difficulties occurring in carrying out that arrangement he accepted the Curacy of St. Paul's, Yorkville, under the Rev. Saltern Givens, and set to work

with vigor to carry out his long-cherished scheme of establishing a church school for girls, which by its cheapness and efficiency should remove the temptation to send church girls to Roman convents, and prove a powerful handmaid of the Church in building up her children in the Faith. After three years of writing, speaking and begging, often far into the night (for Mr. Langtry had mainly to maintain himself by teaching), he succeeded in collecting sufficient funds to furnish and start the Bishop Strachan School, which now possesses a property worth seventy-five thousand

dollars, and is educating nearly two hundred young ladies every year. As soon as the school was established on its present site, Mr. Langtry, with the consent of his Rector, undertook the establishment of a new parish, and with only four families to support him, erected the first mission church of St. Luke's, seating about 250 people. After several years of earnest work this was exchanged for the present beautiful church of St. Luke's, seating between six and seven hundred people, with a property worth over fifty thousand dollars

Within the last three years Mr. Langtry has also been instrumental in the establishment of the Toronto Church School for Boys, which has just purchased a property worth \$20,000, and has opened this year with 82 boys.

The Parish of St. Luke's is one of the most active in the diocese. It has a large number of guilds and associations for carrying on church work of various kinds. This parish has also led the way in the employment of lay readers and preachers. It has now seven licensed lay readers, and carries on six services outside St. Luke's every Sunday. There are four Sunday Schools and three Bible classes. Mr. Langtry was mainly instrumental in the re-establishment of the Trinity Medical School, now the largest and most efficient in the Dominion. He also originated and directed the



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Prolocutor of the Lower House, Provincial Synod.