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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 12—MOOSONEE AND ITS FIRST BISHOP.

By REV. H. POLLARD, Rector St. John's Church, Ottawa.

WHEN I gave notice in church some years ago that the Bishop of Moosonee would preach in St. John's, a smile flitted over the countenances of some of the congregation, as they wondered where Moosonee might be—in what quarter of the globe! Yet it is not much over 500 miles north of Ottawa. Yet what a distance! I received a letter from the secretary of the S. P. G., in 1877, asking me to look up a box that had been sent from the Bray Library Committee for the Bishop of Moosonee, and was supposed to be somewhere in Ottawa. I found it at the express office, addressed, "Bishop Horden, Moose Factory, Ottawa River, Canada": a right direction enough for letters, but on enquiry as to the best way of forwarding the heavy case, I found the quickest and indeed only feasible plan was to re-ship it to England, and let it go out by the Hudson Bay ship in June. It seemed a pity to send such a valuable lot of books back to England; and my suggestion that the trustees should make me a present of them was partly acted upon. They are now in the Bray Library, in Ottawa.

On the Bishop's return home, in 1882, it took him eighteen days of very hard canoe travelling to reach Moose from Mattawa, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, during which, he says, he suffered much from the great heat and mosquitoes, which sometimes amounted to a perfect plague.

The diocese is the largest in British North America. Surrounding Hudson Bay it extends inland from 200 to 500 miles on its eastern, western, and southern sides, and includes the north pole on the other. The northern parts are quite unfit for the abode of civilized man, but in the south agriculture can be carried on with fair success, although wheat will hardly ripen, and in winter the climate is very severe, the thermometer sometimes falling to 50° below zero.

In such a country bishop Horden has been laboring as priest and bishop for thirty-six years.

Born at Exeter, England, he was educated at St. John's school, on "the foundation," and remained in the neighbourhood for some years.

Moved to offer himself as a candidate for missionary work, his name was placed on the list of the Church Missionary Society, and he waited for an opening. One June morning, in 1851, he received a note asking him to go to Hudson Bay under the auspices of the society. If he consented he would have to be ready in one week, as the Hudson Bay ship would then sail, and there was no other means



RT. REV. JOHN HORDEN, D.D.,

First Bishop of Moosonee.