

Diocesan Retrospect and Prospect.

A PAPER READ AT THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF YORK, HELD AT BARRIE,
SEPTEMBER 25TH AND 26TH, 1900.

By J. George Hodgins, M.A., LL.D., ex-Honorary Lay Secretary of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

Never was a Church, in any colony, so richly endowed financially as was that of the Church of England in Upper Canada in 1791. Her first governor, John Graves Simcoe, had strong views on the subject. So strong, indeed, were those views, on the desirability, and necessity (as he regarded it), of establishing the Church of England in this province, that they often degenerated into an unjust and unworthy disparagement of the pioneer labours of the missionaries of the other churches, who had sought to enkindle and keep alive religious feeling among the scattered settlers in the province.

As a member of the Imperial Parliament, by which the Constitutional Act of 1791 was passed, Simcoe, with others of like mind, promoted, if he did not prompt, the insertion of those portions of the Act which provided for the setting apart of one-seventh of the Crown Lands in the newly created province of Upper Canada, for the future support of a Protestant clergy. The Act further authorized the Governor-in-Council "to constitute and erect within every township and parish, which now is, or hereafter may be, formed, constituted, or erected, within such province, one, or