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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 30—THE SECOND BISHOP OF MONTREAL AND METROPOLITAN.

By THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON LINDSAY, WATERLOO, P. Q.

ASHTON OXENDEN was a household name in countless Christian homes before

he became more prominently known as Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada. His tracts and books reached that large class of persons whom the Church in England has been so lightly charged as having handed over to the religious care of other teachers. The devout of every communion recognized and appreciated the earnest devotional tone of all his writings, and Churchmen were delighted to have a literature they could distribute in which the Lord Jesus Christ was so truly set forth and the teaching of the Church maintained. His writings have been as a revelation to thousands who had been brought up in ignorance of the Anglican Church, and they have been won to the fold which they had hitherto imagined was content with a bare confession of orthodoxy. It is not surprising then that with such a reputation Ashton Oxenden should have been thought of as successor to the great Bishop

Fulford. Bishop Fulford's work was to awaken the Church in Canada to the sense of her mission. She had been nurtured for long, long years, and she was now called upon to take her place as fully prepared in the aggressive work for the Master's sake. Bishop Fulford accomplished this in great measure, but there was much to do in teaching the members of the Church their increased responsibilities.

The management of the diocese under such circumstances was a grave inheritance for any bishop. Bishop Oxenden's life had hitherto been passed in his native county of Kent in England, being born in 1808 at Brome Hall, educated at Harrow, and graduating at Oxford. He ministered at Barham and Pluckley, during which time he was laid aside for several years through ill health, which may have providentially given the leisure for the great number of tracts and books which have been such a blessing to the Church. His constitution would to one



THE MOST REV. ASHTON OXENDEN, D. D.,
Second Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan.

whose sense of duty was less exacting, have been ample reason for declining the onerous position of Bishop of Montreal.

The establishment of Provincial and Diocesan Synods in Canada had evoked serious divisions of opinion and good men sincerely held grave doubts as to the result of the powers about to be entrusted to the Bishops on the one hand and the