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HISTORY OF
ST. MARY'S PARISH, HESSON,
OF THE DIOCESE OF LONDON,
COUNTY OF PERTH, TOWNSHIP OF MORNINGTON.

— 1903. —



To write a brief history of St. Mary's Roman Catholic parish of Hesson, Ontario, is the work assigned to me—a stupendous work indeed! For were its history to be measured by the position occupied among the petty thrones of the important Diocese of London, my task would verily be light; but when looking over the names of those, who as shepherds served the Master's flock in Bethlehem of Mornington, we find the personages of many as mysterious as once was that of the Priest of Salem.

ORIGIN AND FIRST SETTLERS.

But as history is a record of past events, a collection of facts, we shall be satisfied to give the facts, such as handed down by tradition, to be recorded in the Diocesan archives.

Away back in the forties, in the days when Stratford had received its first Episcopal visit in the person of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Power, Bishop of Kingston; and when the Morning