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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 112.—THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, WINNIPEG.

IN our account of St. John's Cathedral, which appeared in our number of December last, we made some reference to the foundation of the Capitular body in connection with it. It is a corporation sole under an Act of the Manitoba Legislature, under which it became both a cathedral body, and, with the exception of the Archdeacons of Manitoba and Cumberland, a College of Professors in connection with St. John's College. The above archdeaconries are at present vacant, under a provision of the canons which allows of such vacancies when the bishop considers the endowments for either or both insufficient. Under this arrangement the bishop may appoint archdeacons of Winnipeg and Islington, who, however, have no right or position in the cathedral beyond the occupancy of the stalls of the vacant Archdeaconries.

The present incumbents of the offices are Ven. O. Fortin, B.A., Archdeacon of Winnipeg, and Ven. R. Phair, Archdeacon of Islington. The bishop may also appoint honorary canons, under certain conditions. These are not entitled to any share in the proceedings of the chapter, except by request of the bishop or dean. The Rev. G. S. W. Pentreath, B.D., is at present the only honorary canon.

We purpose now to give brief biographical sketches of the dean and canons.

The Very Rev. John Grisdale, D.D., D.C.L., was appointed dean in 1882. He is a native of Bolton, Lancashire, and was educated at the C.M.S. College, Islington, London, 1865-1870. In 1871 he was appointed assistant minister of the "Old Church," Calcutta, under

the present Bishop of Persia (Dr. E. C. Stuart), and in the same year became master of St. John's College, Agra.

Being invalided home, he was curate to the Rev. Y. B. Whiting, of Broomfield, Essex, 1872-3. In the latter year he came to Manitoba to take charge of the C.M.S. parish of St. Andrews; and the next year was appointed Canon of St. John's, which office he held until his appointment as dean.

The degree of B.D. was conferred upon him for distinguished service by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1876, that of D.D., *honoris causa*, by St. John's College in 1887, and that of D.C.L. by Trinity University, Toronto, during the meeting of the first General Synod of the Canadian Church in 1893.

The dean has filled many offices in both diocese and college, and has also taken a leading part in the general educational work of the province, and in many public movements, with signal usefulness and success.

He was for a time honorary incumbent of Holy Trinity, Winnipeg, first incumbent of Christ Church, and latterly honorary incumbent of All Saints', Morris. In connection with the diocesan synod, of which he has been a member for twenty-two years, he has during

different periods, covering, in all, about eight years, been secretary and treasurer from 1881 to 1884, and from 1893 to the present time. In the Provincial Synod, he has sat since its first session in 1875, when he was appointed secretary of the Lower House, and held that office for eight years. He was appointed to his present position as prolocutor in 1887.

As might be expected, the dean has had a seat on most of the important committees of both synods. He has also taken an important part in the work of the Church Missionary Society in Rupert's Land, as member of its



VERY REV. DEAN GRISDALE, D.D., D.C.L.