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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 71.—THE LATE DEAN BOOMER.

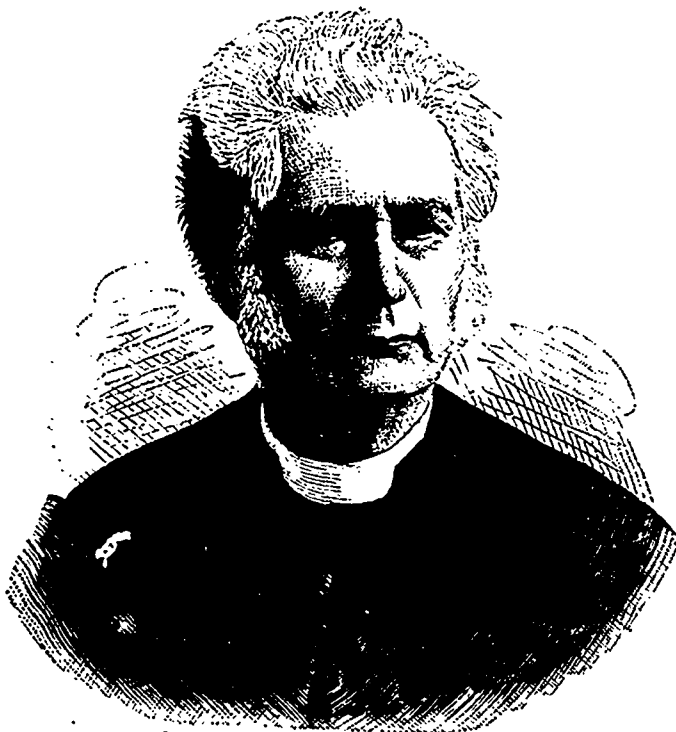
ALL the missionary clergy who planted the Church of England in what was known as the Huron Tract, have now passed away to their reward; and while their names are still household words with us, it is due to their memories, and to the Church they loved and served so well, that their work should be, at least, briefly recorded in the missionary magazine of the Canadian Church. At some future time a history of the Anglican Church in British North America will be written; how important then, that the writer should be in possession of facts concerning the men who first preached the Gospel and founded our parishes throughout the country.

One such was the late Very Rev. Dean Boomer, of London, Diocese of Huron; of whom it can be truly said that for nearly fifty years, he possessed the implicit confidence and respect of the whole Church, and the warm personal friendship and regard of all who knew him.

Michael Boomer was descended from one René Bulmer, a French Huguenot, who, with many of his compatriots and co-religionists, was compelled to flee from France about the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and settle in the north of Ireland. The subject of our memoir was the son of George Boomer and Mary Knox, of Scotch ancestry, born at Hill Hall, near Lisburn, County of Down, January

1st, 1810. Michael was sent to the Belfast Royal Academic Institution, of which he was a foundation scholar for five years, and subsequently to Trinity College, Dublin, from which he graduated in 1838, and later on received his degree of Doctor of Laws. He came to Canada in 1840, sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to Bishop Strachan, by whom he was ordained deacon, and in the year following, priest; he was sent to the mission of Galt and parts adjacent; a charge which he retained for thirty-two years. When

he entered upon his mission field, there were but three Church of England families within the bounds of what is now known as the town of Galt; and, of course, there was neither school-house, church, nor parsonage. Galt is one of the strongholds of Presbyterianism in Canada. Although a town of only six thousand people, they have three very large congregations, with remarkably handsome and costly churches. During Dr. Boomer's pastorate there he gathered a large congregation, built a stone church capable of seating



THE LATE VERY REV. MICHAEL BOOMER, D.D.

Dean of Huron.

five hundred worshippers, a stone school-house, and one of the most commodious and handsome rectory houses in the diocese; besides securing an endowment of six thousand dollars. In connection with this work, it is only just to place on record, that during the whole of his incumbency of that parish, he enjoyed not only the support and good will of all the parishioners, but one especially deserves to be mentioned and his name handed down in the annals of Canadian Church history—the late Absolom Shade—a kind and generous friend to the clergy at all