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## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### No. 19.—THE DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

**T**HE progress of missionary work in British Columbia, though in some respects disappointing, has been marked by many deeds of self-denial and Apostolic zeal. The work there is of a rugged and hard nature, requiring much steadiness of purpose and love for souls. In 1859 a missionary bishop was appointed for the whole country, consisting of the Island of Vancouver and the main land, noted

for its lofty mountains, gigantic forests and grand scenery. After struggling with this hard missionary work for twenty years, Bishop Hills (the missionary bishop referred to) made such representations of the needs of the Church in his enormous diocese as led to its sub-division into three missionary districts, each to be presided over by a missionary bishop. This was in 1879, a year marked by the consecration of several missionaries to Episcopal labors in distant lands. Bishop Hills retained Vancouver Island as his diocese, under the name of Columbia, and the main

land was divided into two dioceses, the Northern part being called Caledonia and the Southern portion New Westminster, the former being chiefly under the care of the Church Missionary Society, and the latter of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

The Rev. William Ridley was appointed bishop of Caledonia, and the Rev. Acton Windeyer Sillitoe, Chaplain at Hesse Darmstadt and Chaplain to the late Princess Alice, accepted the bishopric of New Westminster. He was consecrated at Croydon, England, on All Saints' Day, 1879, but he did not reach his new sphere of labor till June 18th, 1880. His journey from England to New

Westminster was tedious and to some extent adventurous. After encountering much ice in the Atlantic, near Newfoundland, and getting a good view of the seals which, in wondering troops, surrounded the ship, he landed in Quebec and pushed on to San Francisco, which he reached on the 8th day of June. On the 15th he arrived in the harbor of Victoria, and after spending a short time in that city took passage by boat to New Westminster, which he reached on the 18th. He was met by all the clergy of the city, that is to say he was met by two clergymen, one of whom was an Archdeacon—the Archdeacon of Columbia.

A thanksgiving service was held in the church, which is described as a creditable stone structure, with nave, chancel, north aisle and south transept. It had, however, an ugly wooden tower, in which a peal of bells, presented by Lady Burdett Coutts, was hung. In it the Rector, the Venerable Archdeacon Woods, besides the ordinary Sunday services, held daily evensong and weekly communion.

Shortly after his arrival in New Westminster, Bishop Sillitoe describes other places which he soon was enabled to visit. These were:—

(1.) Sapperton,

near to which was Government House, a fashionable congregation, worshipping in St. Mary's Church.

(2.) Trenant, twelve miles below New Westminster, on the Fraser River, a place noted for its salmon canning trade. It is beautifully situated in a prairie bounded by mountains. Mt. Baker, 15,000 feet high, seems near, but is sixty miles away.

(3.) The North Arm of the Fraser River, which was reached by means of a small steamer, and where the bishop was entertained in a logging camp. Teamsters of oxen in the logging business received £280 per annum, a stipend considerably



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