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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 75.—THE NATIVE EPISCOPATE.

FROM time to time there has been great enthusiasm shown over the question of a native ministry. The Anglican Church is peculiarly situated for the prosecution of this great and important work. Great Britain owning, as she does, territory in different parts of the world, holding sway over many different tribes and races of people, is in a position through her ancient and apostolic Church, to extend the work and influence of the Christian religion to the remotest bounds of earth. And what better method could be adopted than the planting of the Christian Church in foreign soil,—not the mesetting it down there as an exotic, but the planting it in the soil where it is to grow so that it will belong to the people as part and parcel of themselves?

To say nothing of many other regions of the earth, the opportunity which exists for this work in India and Africa may be specially mentioned. New dioceses from time to time are being established in India, and the names of Calcutta, Bombay, Chota Nagpur, Colombo, Lahore, Madras, Rangoon, Travancore, Lucknow, all call up thoughts of a foreign race of undoubted capabilities, susceptible of higher education, and looking on to a future which may some day surprise the world. Their cast of countenance and general intelligence show them to be not only an attractive but a superior race, and the names which we have given above are the names of Anglican

Dioceses established in their midst; the names are native, the dioceses themselves, so far as the bishops and the great majority of the clergy are concerned, are foreign. Here the attempt to establish a native episcopate has not yet been made, though it might reasonably be supposed that the conditions for doing so are favourable. As far back as 1824 the first diocese in India (Calcutta) was formed. Since then eight others have been added, and yet no native priest has been found for the high and apostolic office of Bishop.

The attempt, however, has been made elsewhere, and in a country where one would have supposed the inception of a native episcopate would hardly have been made. The African race, in many respects, stands in great contrast to the natives of India. Their color and features, to say nothing of the prejudices which exist against them among white people who are at all brought in contact with them, render the probability of the trust involved in the establishment of a native episcopate in their midst somewhat doubtful. Yet here and here only, so far as our memory



BISHOP HOLLY, OF HAITI, WEST INDIES.

serves us, has the attempt been made. In 1864 a native African was appointed by the Church Missionary Society in England as Bishop of the Niger Territory. His remarkable story has often been told; his portrait has often been given. Indeed, few illustrated periodicals in the world have failed to show to their readers a picture of "the black bishop," who, from a worthless slave boy, rose to an Anglican bishopric.*

But this seems to have been an exceptional

*See our own February No., page 37.