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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 96.—ATHABASCA.

By the kindness of Bishop Young, who, after having spent the winter in Toronto, has returned to his distant diocese of Athabasca, we are able to present to our readers two scenes from water-color paintings in the bishop's own possession, representing two of his mission stations. The first represents St. Luke's church and school-house, Vermilion, where the bishop himself once had his headquarters; the second is Fort Chippewyan.

When Mr. Young came out from England as a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, he was placed in charge of St. Andrew's, formerly known as "Grand Rapids," in the Diocese of Rupert's Land; but a larger and far more extensive work lay before him. Far away to the north, in the region of perpetual night and perpetual day, where Bishop Bompas, then called Bishop of Athabasca, was prosecuting his arduous missionary work, lay a territory almost unexplored, but in need of ambassadors of the Gospel to work among the lonely Indian tribes which here and there frequented it. It was all too much for one bishop. Therefore it was to be divided into two, a northern diocese, to be known as Mackenzie River, and a southern see, which was to retain the name of Athabasca. Bishop Bompas preferred to remain in the north, and Mr. Young was selected to take charge of the southern district.

With a view to gaining some knowledge of

his future field, he started for the north with the Rev. D. Kirkby, now at Grace Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., and journeyed from post to post in a variety of forms. First, to the far west, till the Rocky Mountains came in view. This part of the journey was by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Alighting at Calgary, he travelled by road northward to Edmonton, and from there to the Athabasca River, where he was taken on board one of the Hudson's Bay steamboats and conveyed westward till he found him-



RT. REV. RICHARD YOUNG, D.D.,

Bishop of Athabasca.

self in the waters of Lesser Slave Lake, on the borders of the newly-formed diocese. Peace River, still to the west, was their next destination. It lay about sixty miles away, and could be reached only by land. The lumbering Northwest cart was the only obtainable vehicle, and by its means the Peace River was reached. And here magnificent scenery burst upon the view of the tired travellers. It was the 1st of July, and the fine river, five hundred yards in width, swept slowly on, variegated here and there with islands, covered with pine. It lies so far below the general level of the country that its banks look

like ranges of hills running parallel to it. Proceeding up the valley, Smoky River mission was reached—the mission now in charge of Rev. J. G. Brick. Further up, the travellers came to Dunvegan, on the 5th of July, where a number of Beaver and Cree Indians are often known to congregate. Through the exertions of a former missionary, Rev. A. C. Garrioch, now at Rapid City, Manitoba, these Indians possess the Gospel according to St. Mark, a portion of the Prayer Book, and several hymns in their