

Our Mission News.

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"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—St. MATTHEW xxiv, 14.


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No. 10

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 10—THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

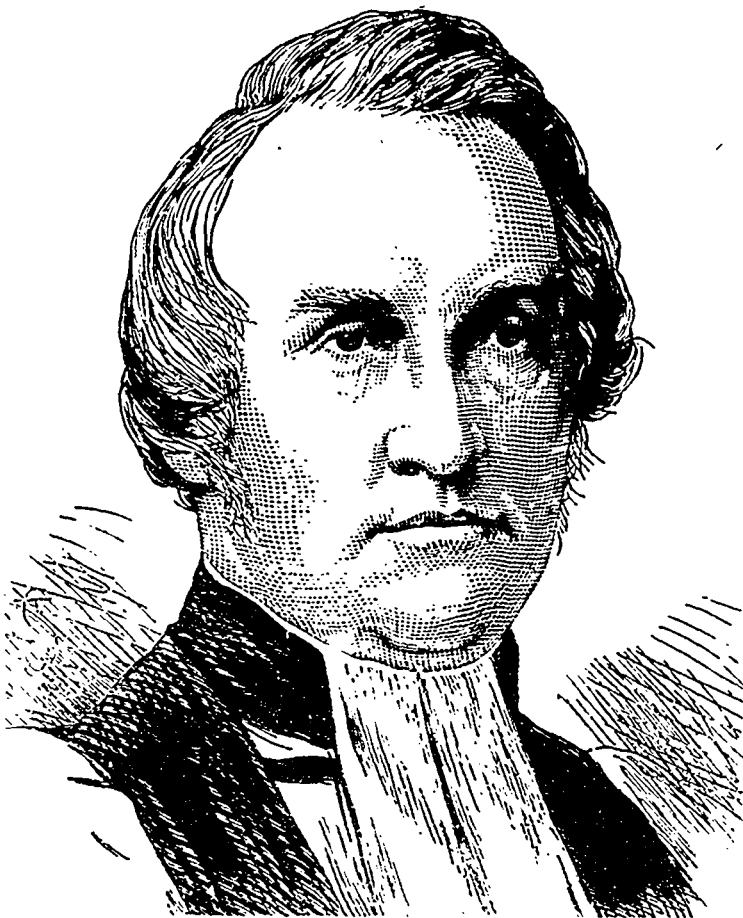
N looking at the map of Canada one can easily see three natural divisions from east to west. In the east there are the maritime provinces, together with the old and well known provinces of Ontario and Quebec, once, and for a long time, called Upper and Lower Canada. Then stretching westward as far as the Rocky Mountains is the "Great Lone Land," once known as the Hudson's Bay Territory, and westward again, between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific is the large territory of British Columbia.

In tracing the rise and progress of the Canadian Episcopate, we have seen so far the establishment of bishops at Nova Scotia, Quebec, Toronto, Newfoundland, Fredericton, Rupert's Land, Montreal, and Huron,—that is three in the maritime provinces and Newfoundland, two in Quebec, two in Ontario, and one in Hudson's Bay Territory or the "North West." Our attention is now called, in the order of time, to British Columbia.

Little or nothing was known of this territory till about the year 1858, when a discovery of gold was

made in the bed of the Fraser river. This brought an influx of miners and adventurers and secured a steady increase of population, and the great missionary societies in England soon saw in it an important field of operation for evangelistic work. In 1856 the Church Missionary Society sent out a layman, Mr. Duncan, who commenced a vigorous

work among the Indians, of whom there are immense numbers all over British Columbia. In the following year the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel sent out two clergymen as missionaries, and in 1859, with great wisdom, they sent out a bishop. As the colony then was but in its infancy, it forms an example of the truest step for missionary work—that is to say the establishment, at the very outset, of a bishopric. The unhappy result of placing too much power in the hands of a layman has been too plainly seen in the case of Mr. Duncan, who, from his spirit of independence of all Church rule and



RT. REV. GEORGE HILLS, D. D.

First Bishop of British Columbia.

authority has given the society which sent him out great trouble, and has led to an unhappy ending of what promised to be one of the finest missionary achievements of the age.

The bishop selected by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for this pioneer work was the Rt. Rev. George Hills, D. D., eldest son