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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. III.—SAULT STE. MARIE, DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

THE history of the Anglican Church in Algoma dates as far back as 1835 or 1840, and the name of the Ven. Arch-deacon McMurray, D.C.L., who died at Niagara but recently, is still hon-

orably remembered by many of the older Indians and early white settlers of that district, who took part with him in the first English Church services ever held in Algoma. He paid occasional visits to Garden River and built "Old St. John's Church" there, which has since been replaced by a more modern and substantial building. He lived in Sault Ste. Marie for some time; built a log church there on the top of a prominent hill. The English Church had then in that place a squatter's claim of forty-five acres, but this afterwards became the property of Mr. Pim, who was postmaster at that time. The same log building in which the first English Church services were held

still exists. It was moved down from the hill on rollers, was re-fashioned and modernized and improved, and is now one of the most comfortable homes in the Sault; the residence of Mrs. Pim, on Pim street.

Mr. McMurray, as he was then called, also held services in the "Stone house," once the property of Mr. Pim, late residence of P. C. Campbell, Esq., and now the property of Sheriff Carney. This stone house was built in the year 1815 by Ermatinger, the great fur-trader,

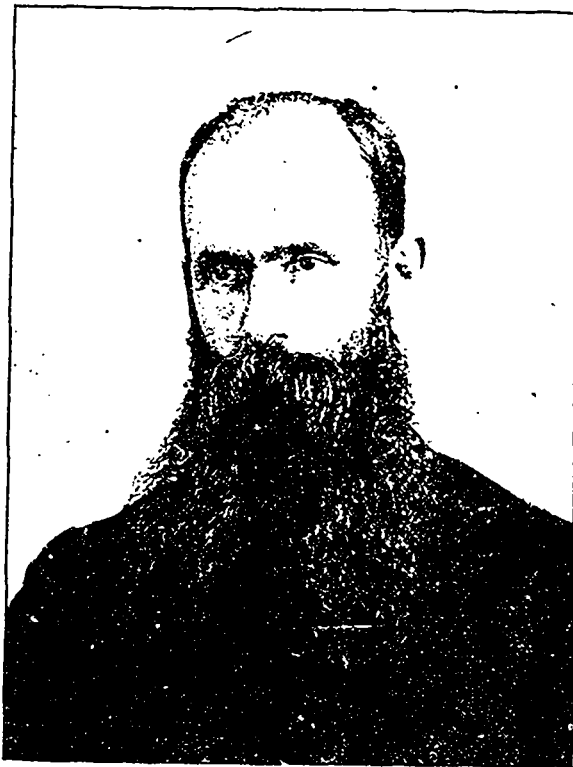
who once lived in the present abode of W. Van Abbot, Esq., where he is said to have made £45,000. Mr. Van Abbot's house was built in 1810, and is the oldest residence in the Sault.

Following up the history of the Church, the Rev. Mr. (afterwards Dr.) O'Meara next appears upon the scene, an indefatigable and enthusiastic worker both among the Indians and white settlers. He held services at the Sault most frequently, but he was once in charge

of the Garden River mission, and held a long pastorate at Manitowaning. He is well known as rector of St. John's Church, Port Hope, where he died a few years ago, literally "in harness." He translated the Book of Common Prayer, the four Gospels, and the Pentateuch into the Ojibway language, which are now used by the Indian missionaries in Ontario.

After Dr. O'Meara came Rev. Gustavus Anderson, who held services frequently in Sault Ste. Marie, but whose pastorate was of comparatively short duration. Then came Rev. Mr. Chance. He often held services in the "Stone house," but his headquarters were Garden River. Let it be remembered that at that time the Sault had no resident minister of its own.

It was supplied from Garden River, and sometimes by a clergyman from Toronto Bishop Strachan, of Toronto, also sometimes held services in the town, and was often the guest of Major and Mrs. Wilson. Many a time the congregation assembled outside Major Wilson's house, and the Bishop, raising up the window to its utmost height, standing inside read the services and preached to his audience, who were too numerous to find space within. On such occasions the signa



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