



THE MOUTH OF THE SKEENA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

under the episcopal supervision of Bishop Hills,* who visited them in 1863, and afterwards in 1866, when he spoke in high terms of the unique and successful work that had been established amongst them.

But besides the work at Metlakatla, other missions had been established in this northern part of British Columbia, one at Kincolith, another at Queen Charlotte's Island, a third at Fort Rupert, and still another in the interior. And all this work grew so as to render some further episcopal supervision absolutely necessary. The territory that Bishop Hills was expected to cover was simply beyond the capabilities of one man, and that prelate, acting upon a resolution of his Synod in 1879, represented this in England. And his representation was successful. The province was divided into three dioceses, consisting of Vancouver Island, Caledonia (or the main land north), and New Westminster (or the main land south.) The Rev. William Ridley was chosen to be the first Bishop of Caledonia, his stipend being guaranteed by the Church Missionary Society. Mr. Ridley was ordained in 1866, and was already known as an active missionary for the same society in India; but finding that the climate was injurious to his health, he returned to England, and when chosen Bishop of Caledonia, was vicar of St. Paul's, Huddersfield. As the portion of British Columbia

embraced by this diocese possessed a climate directly opposite to that of India, the returned missionary at once acceded to the call. He was consecrated on July 25th (St. James' Day) 1879, at St. Paul's Cathedral. Dr. Walsham How to the suffragan-bishopric of Bedford, Dr. Barclay to the Anglican See of Jerusalem, and Dr. Speechly to the newly formed diocese of Travancore and Cochin, were consecrated on the same day.

On arriving in New York, Bishop Ridley crossed the United States by the Pacific Railway, sailed from San Francisco for Victoria, which he reached on October 14th, 1879. Here he met Mr. Duncan and Admiral Prevost, both of whom accompanied him to Metlakatla.

Before the Bishop left England he made an earnest appeal for a steam launch for his seafaring work, and soon he had to urge this appeal from practical knowledge. "Unless I get my steam ship soon, Caledonia will need another Bishop," he wrote, and described at the same time the perils of going to sea in the canoes of the Indians. In 1880 he paid his first visit to the inland tribes of Indians. He thus briefly describes this journey:—

"My voyage up lasted a fortnight. Fourteen days breasting the rapid Kshia or Skeena River; fourteen days without interruption amid fine scenery; thrice fourteen camps beneath forest trees beside a river, in some places two miles broad, dotted with

* See the April, 1887, number of the CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE.