

# Our Mission News.

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

"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.

VOL. I.

MARCH, 1887.

No. 9

## HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

### NO. 9.—THE FIRST BISHOP OF HURON.

BY REV. CANON INNES, M. A., RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, LONDON.

**T**HE Right Reverend Benjamin Cronyn, first Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, was the son of Thos. Cronyn, Esq., of Kilkenny, Ireland, and was born in the year 1802. He was educated in Trinity College, Dub-

lin, where he attained to a high position, his several degrees having been conferred—that of B. A. in 1822, M. A. in 1825, and in 1824 he was divinity prizeman. In 1855 the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him. He was ordained deacon by the Lord Bishop of Raphoe in August 1825, and priest by His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam on Trinity Sunday, 1827.

Of the early life of Bishop Cronyn there is no special record, save that he was held in high esteem in his native town for the sincerity and earnestness of his Christian character, the zeal with

which he devoted himself to every good work, and his warm attachment to the Church of England and Ireland. As an evidence of this we give the following letter, written to the Rev. Mr. Cronyn by the Rector of Kilkenny, the Rev. Peter Roe, just prior to his departure for his new field of labor in the wild backwoods of Canada:

"St. Mary's Glebe, Kilkenny,  
"July 20th, 1832.

"MY DEAR BEN:—I cannot allow you to depart from Kilkenny without expressing my very sincere

wish that the blessing of the Lord may ever accompany you in your journeyings, and abide with you should you become stationary. Be assured I continue to feel a deep interest in your welfare, and it would be strange if I did not, for from your early days you have not only been under my observation, but under my pastoral care, and are one of at least fourteen who have been called out of the Sunday School of St. Mary's to preach within the pale of our beloved established church the unsearchable

riches of Christ. I have known you as a Sunday School scholar, a Sunday School teacher, and as a parochial clergyman, and I desire to bless God on your behalf, that as He early led you to a knowledge of His own truth as it is in Jesus, so he has kept you without dishonoring it. May He do so to the end, and wherever your lot is cast, may you be blessed in your own soul by enjoying constant communion with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ, and may you be made a blessing to others by directing them for pardon and peace to the Lamb of God that taketh



THE RT. REV. BISHOP CRONYN, D. D.,

First Bishop of Huron, Canada. Born 1802; died 1871.

away the sin of the world. Ever yours, my dear Ben, in the bonds which death cannot sever.

"(Signed) PETER ROE."

"REV. BENJ. CRONYN."

In the autumn of 1832, the Rev. Mr. Cronyn reached the then very small village of "The Forks," now London, Ontario, and was appointed rector in the same year. There are few left who can remember what a mere hamlet it was at that time, and the difficulties and trials that had to be borne by the early settlers. Many were the amusing and pleas-