

THE CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

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The Church on the prairie by H. H. Montgomery

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H. H. MONTGOMERY

**THE CHURCH
ON THE PRAIRIE**



PALACE OCCUPIED BY BISHOP McLEAN (see page 9)
BISHOP OF SASKATCHEWAN, 1874-1886

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THE CHURCH
ON
THE PRAIRIE

BY

H. H. MONTGOMERY, D.D.

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SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL
IN FOREIGN PARTS

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(With a Supplementary Note by

CHARLES H. ROBINSON, D.D.)

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

As the years pass the Canadian problem looms larger and ever larger for us as Churchmen as well as members of the British Empire. I dedicate these pages to the new Canada of this century, the giant among the new nations. We shall show our respect for him best by providing him with the ablest and wisest and most human leaders in Church as well as in State. I have brought the earlier chapters of this book up to date without demolishing the account of the developments of a few years ago. The last chapters speak of the new Forward Movement by the Church on behalf of Western Canada.

H. H. M.

March 10, 1910

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM STATED

IT is possible in the year 1908 to form a fair general impression of the problem which faced our Church in the prairie regions of Western Canada three or four years ago; and we surely should have much to say of the manner in which we have met it.

No book, of course, can effect for the reader what a personal visit does. We are coming to realise this more and more. Indeed, I believe one of the chief factors in the success of the Student Volunteer Movement has been the possession of Mr. Mott as a persistent inspector of the world's mission fields, ever on the move, and gifted with the double power of grasping details as well as of taking broad views. So few can see both the wood and the trees.

Let us take an example from the other side, that is from a policy dictated without sufficient local knowledge in the Committee though I am not prepared to blame the Committee on this ground. In 1896 the S.P.G. had determined to cut down all Canadian grants by 10 per cent. annually till our grants ceased;¹ they held that a great independent daughter Church

¹ It is only fair to say that such reductions were mitigated by special grants at the same time, including "Marriott grants" towards church building.