

**PIONEER CHURCH WORK IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA: BEING A
MEMOIR OF THE EPISCOPATE
OF ACTON WINDEYER SILLITOE**

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Pioneer Church Work in British Columbia: Being a Memoir of the Episcopate of Acton
Windeyer Sillitoe by Herbert H. Gowen

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HERBERT H. GOWEN

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CHURCH WORK IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA

192
1905



Photo: Alvord Ellis and Wokery.]

PORTRAIT OF BISHOP SILLITOE.

PIONEER CHURCH WORK

IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA

BEING A MEMOIR OF THE EPISCOPATE

OF

ACTON WINDEYER SILLITOE, D.D., D.C.L.
FIRST BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER

BY THE

REV. HERBERT. H. GOWEN, F.R.G.S.

AUTHOR OF

"THE PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC," ETC., ETC.

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First printed, 1899

YERKES
OLIVER
YERKES

ACTON WINDEYER SILLITOE.

1840-1894.

Once for the least of children of Manasses
God had a mission and a deed to do,
Wherefore the welcome that all speech surpasses
Called him and hailed him greater than he knew;

Asked him no more, but took him as he found him,
Filled him with valour, slung him with a sword,
Bade him go on until the tribes around him
Mingled his name with naming of the Lord.

F. W. H. MYERS.
(*Saint Paul.*)

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PREFACE

OUR only qualification for writing this short preface to Mr. Gowen's excellent work is that we loved, and still warmly love, our old Bishop.

He was to us, for years, not Bishop only, but father, brother, guide, and friend.

Perhaps some apology is needed for our rashness, for we are not men of great reputation or position, either in the Church or the world.

Nor can we lay claim to the possession of what are called "literary" gifts or experience, for we have seldom seen ourselves in print. Love makes us bold.

When others, greater and better men, and in every way more fitted for the task than ourselves, were, for various reasons, unable to take it in hand, it was given to us by those we could not, if we would, refuse. This must be our plea for the kind indulgence of our friends.

For ourselves, and those who were closely bound to Acton Windeyer Sillitoe by ties of kindred and friendship, we gratefully thank Mr. Gowen for giving us this memoir, and for all the valuable time and work he has so generously and lovingly expended upon its production.

It was necessary to curtail and slightly revise it before finally sending the manuscript to press, and with Mr. Gowen's kind permission, one of us (Mr. Edwardes) undertook that somewhat delicate duty. Separated from the author by some six thousand miles, it was impossible to confer together. If faults there are, then they must not be attributed to Mr. Gowen.

To one ever engaged in good work on behalf of the Diocese of New Westminster, we must express our gratitude for the kindest and most patient help in revising the book, and in making arrangements for its publication.

Our thanks are also due to Messrs. Alfred Ellis and Walery, of Baker Street, W. ; Messrs. Notman and Son, of Montreal ; and Mr. Thompson, of Vancouver, B.C., for their kindly expressed permission to copy photographs taken by them.

This little memoir has been compiled mainly from Bishop Sillitoe's own diaries, from old numbers of the *New Westminster Diocesan Gazette*, and from Mrs. Sillitoe's and the Bishop's letters written to various missionary publications.

The author does not pretend for a moment to give an exhaustive biography of the Bishop's life, nor to do more than give, from the matter placed at his disposal, a graphic summary of the life and work and difficulties of the first Bishop of New Westminster, during the fourteen years he occupied the see.

If a more adequate appreciation of the man,