

INTRODUCTION.

reckoned among the men and women who have made Methodism, who have made Canada.

Their daughter has most lovingly and charmingly depicted their life and character. The style is fresh, naive, vivacious; the book abounds in graphic descriptions of places, persons and events; there are many touches both of humor and of pathos; there are frequent glimpses into the details of the daily life not only of the parsonage, but also of the general community of fifty years ago which make that period and that phase of our history live over again to the reader.

As we read, we see the people gathering from far and near to the old-time preaching service, the high-wrought interest of the quarterly meeting, the itinerant's long rides through the lonely forest, the trials and triumphs of a long and faithful ministry. But we also see such details of the home life as make the story intensely human. We are perhaps surprised to find in those earlier days, with what we had thought their "simple life," the insistence of that same problem of "domestic help" which we had supposed peculiar to our own time. We behold the flutter of household excitement when some great man, notably that prince of preachers, William Ryerson, visits the parsonage and the church. We have delightful reminiscences of such men as Kennedy Creighton, Edward Hartley Dewart, "Father" Case, Lachlin Taylor,