

This work has been accomplished amid scores of disadvantages which are too painful to dwell upon. It has been conceived and carried on without one breath of endorsement, or encouragement, from any Conference or convocation in the world. It is true, the Book Committee of our Connexion so far countenanced it as to secure the copyright; and the REV. SAMUEL ROSE, the Book Steward, has not flinched from the outlay in its publication, notwithstanding the book was so much larger than was at first expected, and was so much more costly to print than nearly any other book, being very much crowded and full of matter, with no vacant places to eke out the book. So also among my encouragements, I must say, that one individual in a high official position,—I refer to the REV. DR. WOOD,—has been an undeviating sympathizer, counsellor, and help from the first to the last.

The absence of Conferential endorsement has relieved me from one embarrassment: I have been preserved from the temptation to write in the interests of a party, as is characteristic of some histories I wot of; I have been enabled to preserve my own individuality and to keep to historic truthfulness, so far as I could discover the truth. I have not presented the Conference and Church as I might have wished them to appear, but as what they were.

For reasons I have stated in former Prefaces, this work is not perfect, but, in fact, is very imperfect: still, in the very nature of things, a first edition of a multifarious work of this kind must, almost inevitably, be so.

This volume has been delayed by many insuperable ob