

The Preachers and Teachers of the Old Days.

THE comparatively uneventful years of Prince Edward Island's early settlement will not figure largely on the pages of any history, but who will say that they were not pregnant with valuable preliminary work for the mental, moral and religious development of the people.

In the churches, as well as in many of the school houses, and often in private houses, clergymen and laymen of different denominations ministered to the people in spiritual things with general acceptance. The names of Bishop McEachern, Parson DesBrisay, Dr. McGregor, Dr. Tupper, Mr. McDonald and Wm. Metherrall will ever be honored for the sacrifices they made and the faithful services they rendered. They belonged to a class of educated men whose services would have been appreciated in the centres of wealth and refinement.

"Men they were to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a year."

Other preachers of those days had little or no college training, but they had still better equipment for their peculiar work in a keen knowledge of the Bible and an ardent missionary spirit. Their theology might not have been up to the standard of a divinity hall, and certainly would not accord with the canons of modern criticism, but nobody can justly say the message they delivered was not in the whole good, and that its beneficial effects were not to be found in the virtuous lives which the people lived, and the strong grasp which they held of religious doctrine.

The people of those days were not content with what was called superficial preaching. They delighted to hear the preacher wrestle with such questions as "Effectual Calling," "Original Sin" and "Final Perseverance," and woe betide the new minister if he were found wanting in expounding these cardinal points of Christian doctrine. Encounters in argument between the lay champions of Calvinism and Arminianism were quite frequent, and faithful backers of both sides were not generally wanting. Whatever may be the judgment of the present