

THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND MUTATIONS OF METHODISM IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA.*

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II.

THE Presiding Elder appointed in charge of the Upper Canada District, on the assumption of jurisdiction by the General Conference of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, was the notable Henry Ryan, a powerful man, physically, of Irish extraction, but born in Connecticut, April 22, 1775, who had entered the ministry in 1800, and had been in Canada five years when placed in charge of the District, in which official capacity he was destined to remain fourteen years, covering the war period and reaching till the organization of the Canada Annual Conference in 1824. He was a mightily moving preacher, of great gifts, and very successful in the work of the ministry.

The war referred to prevented regular intercourse between the authorities of the Church in the States and the "Two Canadas," from 1812 to 1815, and caused the return of some preachers of American origin, and the retirement of some others. Mr. Ryan resumed the charge of the work over a good part of Lower Canada as well as his trust in the Upper Province, supervising it from end to end with tireless energy, performing very much the work of a Bishop, as well as Presiding Elder, calling out preachers to supply the Circuits, and holding no less than three several Conferences, the one published for Niagara, said to have been adjourned to Beaver Dam; one at the Bay of Quinte, and one in Matilda.

There was a strenuous movement for some years after the war, to bring about a separation from the American Church, which led, first, to the organization of the Canada Conference, referred to, in 1824; and four years after, May, 1828, the American General Conference gave consent for the Canadian brethren to organize an independent Church for the Province, which went into effect the following October.

* A contribution to a forthcoming illustrated History of Methodism, by the Rev. W. H. Daniels, M.A.