

A FINAL WORD TO THE READER.

My long cherished desire and purpose are achieved at last. The unparalleled production of a history of sixty-four years course of operations, and a portraiture of the actors in its accomplishment combined, is before the reader. It is as if the "Nonconformist's Memorial," and "Baxter's Life and Times," or "The History of the Puritans," should be woven into one. I pretend not to say whether this is an excellence, or defect, but there it is. My original and fondest wish was to preserve a memorial of each of the itinerants who had labored in Canada from 1790 to 1855 ; next, I adopted the idea of presenting the public life, pre-eminently, of the most influential among them, and one who exercised his ministry fifty years ; but in the accomplishment of these two objects, I accomplished a third, and more important one than either, the history of the Church as well as its ministry. If such things are of any importance, then I say that I have furnished the great Methodist Church (so far as it relates to "the two Canada's" especially) an account of its rise and progress and a memorial of all its ministers, something which no Church in existence possesses but herself, at least that I know of.