

REFACE.

ber and tell and give the meaning of and lay up in their hearts for many days. Woe to the reverend divine, however pious, learned, and eloquent he may be, if he disappoint them. With that congregation his reputation as a preacher is gone forever.

From among the sermons which the children like and which their elder brothers and sisters, their fathers and mothers remember also, I have chosen twelve for publication. Some of them have been delivered more than once to varying audiences in the chapel of Yoho, and, unless by special request as sometimes happens, cannot be repeated there. But the young people wish to have them in a book of their own, and perhaps there are other boys and girls in the world to whom the stories may give pleasure and do good. My critical young friends who have heard them spoken extempore will doubtless detect many variations from the original in form of expression, but in their main features they will find the narratives unchanged. It is not my duty to provoke or to disarm general criticism of the productions of others which it has been my office simply to collect and arrange. They pleased and profited the children and me and will do the same, I trust, to those who are like-minded.

THE EDITOR.

MONTREAL, Christmas 1884.

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