

BOOK NOTICES.

Centennial History of American Methodism, inclusive of its ecclesiastical organization in 1784, and its subsequent development under the superintendency of Francis Asbury, with sketches of the character and history of all the preachers known to have been members of the Christmas Conference; also an appendix, showing the numerical position of the Methodist Episcopal Church as compared with other leading evangelical denominations in the cities of the United States, and the condition of the educational work of the Church. By JOHN ATKINSON, D.D. New York: Phillips & Hunt. Toronto: Wm. Briggs, Methodist Book-Room.

This title is so full, and, withal, so accurately descriptive of the work, it requires little more than the reprinting of it to introduce the volume to the readers of the CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE. Mr. Atkinson has evidently performed an important service to his Church in preparing this interesting volume, in which he has gathered together the substance of all that is known of the men and women who planted Methodism on this Continent, and who nurtured it in its infancy. He has evidently spared no pains in the collection of the materials for his history, and he has evinced no small amount of skill in using them. The style of the book is clear and vigorous, and the matter is such as all Methodists ought to be acquainted with. It deserves a wide circulation.

Mr. Atkinson has, we observe, inserted an account of the Heck family, which sets the controversy on that subject for ever at rest. There is really nothing new in it to well-informed Methodists in this country, but as it is the first time that the true version has found its way into any history in the United States, we welcome it in this place.

It is from the pen of Bishop Merrill, and is as follows:

"Paul Heck and Barbara, his wife, came to this country from Ireland about 1760. Having been subjects of the British Government in the old country before and after their conversion, and having come to New York under the protection of the British flag, they were in heart loyal to God and their King, and when the Revolutionary war began, and its turbulent waves dashed about the city of their adoption they quietly retired, as did Embury and some others of the original class, and settled at Salem, in the State of New York, and formed the first society in that section. Mr. Paul Heck, the husband of Barbara, entered the British army, under Burgoyne, whether by constraint or willingly we know not, nor does it matter, as the fact is all that concerns us. At the time that General Burgoyne's army was surrendered to the Americans, Mr. Heck was at home on furlough, visiting his family, when his presence was discovered by some patriot soldiers, who arrested him, and started to convey him to General Washington's camp as a prisoner of war. On their way they stopped at right in an unoccupied farmhouse, where they wrapped themselves in their blankets and went asleep on the floor, with their prisoner between them. Mr. Heck did not sleep as soundly as did his captors, but got up in the night without disturbing them, and left the house and went into the woods. Of course he did not return to his home, and he could not rejoin his regiment, now prisoners of war, and so he made his way into Canada, which was the most natural thing for him to do under the circumstances. In the meantime, Philip Embury, who had removed from New York City with the Hecks, had died, and his widow