

## CHAPTER I.



HELDING to a wish often expressed by members of my family, and by others outside the family circle, I have herein undertaken to chronicle a brief history of my life.

I was born in the County of Farmanagh, Ireland, in the town-land of Drumcullen and Parish of Derrevullen, on April 15th, 1837. My parents, William Hutcheson and Elizabeth Coulter, were natives of that section of the country, but their ancestors were Scotch.

My oldest sweetheart, the purest of women, with a tender hand and a consecrated heart and mind, taught me the truth and the value of the Law of the Lord, or the old Bible. My father was a consecrated christian, and had the family at the altar regularly during the early years of my acquaintance with him. He also gave me the fullest assurance that the old Book was the best possible guide for youth, for middle age, and for old age. His death will be recorded later.

During the year 1847, it being the time particularly of the blight of the potato crop in Ireland, it became apparent that the yeomen of that country would have to find quarters elsewhere, or suffer hunger from the famine which prevailed. Amongst the other families that then emigrated to Canada and other parts, my father and his family came to the resolve that it was necessary to seek pastures new, and find a country where they would enjoy larger opportunities for the comforts of life. In discussing the question, my eldest brother said he would go alone if the family would not go with him, and my mother in reply said "I shall never leave my children; I will go with them to death, whither that may be." That settled the question. We were then bound for another home—another country. The next question to be solved was: would we go to Australia to my mother's relatives, or would we go