

THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1880.

THE REV. JOHN POTTS, D.D.*

DR. POTTS is one of the most widely known and most highly esteemed ministers of the Methodist Church of Canada. He was born in the County Fermanagh, Ireland, in the year 1838. With characteristic energy, he early resolved to seek his fortune in the New World, the Southern States of America being his destination. On his way to the South, he passed through Canada, sojourning for a time among relations at the city of Kingston. His impressions of Canada were so favourable that, after a short visit to the South, he determined to make it the land of his adoption. He had been brought up in the communion of the Church of England, but under the preaching of the Rev. George Douglas, at Kingston, he experienced the great awakening which subsequently, under the faithful ministry of the Rev. Charles Lavell, M.A., led to his conversion, and to his uniting with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He was at this time engaged in mercantile life, which he followed both in Kingston and in the city of Hamilton.

The marked ability of the young man, his gifts in exhortation and prayer, and his zeal in Christian work, led to his being urged, at the early age of nineteen, to enter upon the work of the ministry. The fervid zeal of the "boy-preacher," and the gracious results which followed his labours, were an authentication of his call to the hallowed office. Having spent a season of earnest study at Victoria University, and having travelled five

*For the facts of this sketch we are indebted to "The Canadian Biographical Dictionary," and Cornish's valuable "Handbook of Methodism."