

MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE THIRTY YEARS AGO.

It may be instructive and interesting to those ministers and members of the Wesleyan Church who are now rising into active life, to know how their brethren fared and laboured one generation past—that is, taking *thirty years* for a generation. This may be also valuable as showing what Canada owes to Methodism, and by what means the Methodist Church has come to what it is. The author of the present paper is aided in this endeavour by being in possession of a *veritable* journal, kept by a then youthful preacher of *twenty-one* years, who, young as he was, was placed in charge of a circuit of some importance, such as circuits were in that day. It will show the disadvantages that men had to labour under, who had to perform their work, and educate themselves without books, or with such as they met by chance, and without a home in which to study. Some of the sentiments of the young preacher, as set down below, may be incorrect; and some of our more favoured young men may smile at the simplicity of some of his remarks, but they are given, not as standards of opinion, or patterns of style for the present time, but as specimens of how our predecessors thought, wrote, and acted *thirty years ago*. If we can stir up any of this generation to improve their superior advantages, while we also furnish materials for the future historian of Canadian Methodism, and for the pen of the religious *litterateur*, we shall have accomplished our purpose:—

(EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL.)

“*September 21st, 1831, P— Circuit.*—Arrived here last night about 9 o'clock, being appointed to this place for another year. It is not without fear and trembling I resume my labours. *First*, on account of the treachery of my own heart; and, *secondly*, because of the well-known instability of this people. But my trust is in God: as he, in the order of his providence, has brought me back, I feel assured he will bring me through. O that I may be made humble and holy! My determination is to try and be so.

“I have in hand at present as studies,—Watts' Logic, Olney's Geography, and Ray on Creation; and I hope to prosecute the study of Greek this year. The plan I propose is this:—1st. Read four chapters in the Bible when I rise; 2nd. Study Divinity and Sermons the remainder of the forenoon; 3rd. Study Science or Languages in the afternoon; and 4thly. Read at night.

“I find many on my circuit ill. May the Lord sanctify their affliction to the good of their souls!

“*October 2nd.*—It is eleven days since I wrote last; during which time, I have preached *eight* sermons. I have felt much of God's presence and aid.