

is the result rather than the design of the present work. It was by no means designed, when commenced, to imply a reflection on the history written by my painstaking personal friend, the Rev. George Frederick Playter, recently removed from amongst us, the first volume of which is already published, and the second, of which he lived to complete and left ready for publication, and which, it is to be hoped, will be given to the public by some means. Much less is our treatise designed to forestall the expected exhaustive work of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, of whose intention we knew nothing when we began to write. Our humbler production, going first, we hope the researches it contains will contribute in some measure to enrich the pages of the more comprehensive history.

Although this work of ours has involved more labor and care, than any one besides ourself will ever be able to appreciate, it has, notwithstanding, been written *con amore*. In writing it we have felt in some measure the pleasure referred to in the following extract: "One who was most successful in such a research has said, 'He who recalls departed ages back again into being, enjoys a bliss like that of creating.'" This bliss has been ours.

Biography had always great attractions for the writer; and especially, since his conversion, religious biography. About the time he first began to take an interest in religion, he met with and read a volume of the "Preachers' Experiences." His youthful mind was much fascinated with the exercises and adventures of those remarkable men. After that he steadily perused all the biographies of the itinerant preachers.

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