

PREFACE

The use of history in the development of Christian character has long since been recognized as an important factor. It helps us in so many ways to understand the present condition of things that on this account alone it would be worth while giving serious attention to it. But in addition to this there are other great advantages in this study. It helps us, for example, to see the working out of certain principles, both of thought and of action; and this becomes thus an encouragement in that which is right, to believe that the right will win, and a warning against that which is wrong, because we see that falseness sooner or later falls to the ground.

The study of the history of our own country has for all of us very great advantages. Someone has said that every nation's Bible is its own history, and while this is doubtless an exaggeration, there is a vast amount of truth in it. We are beginning as Canadians to awaken to the fact that in Canada we have a real history and in some respects an important history. No Canadian, therefore, need feel that in mastering the story of our past he is wasting his time.

But the history of Baptists is also coming to be recognized as both interesting and important, and we are becoming aware that the contribution that Baptists have made to the life of the past and to the equipment of the present is far from unimportant. More-