

History of The Methodist Church of London.

To the Reader.

For facts relating to the history of the Methodist Church in London, the compiler of this little book is much indebted to those staunch and worthy representatives of Methodism in London. Mr. Samuel McBride and Mr. Wm. Bowman, whose memories are still as retentive as their courtesy is unaffected. That they may have many years yet to exercise them is the sincere hope of the writer.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the history of the Methodist Church in London, dates back to about the year 1820, when a small congregation of Methodists held their services in an unpretentious little rough-cast building situated on the northwest corner of Ridout and Carling streets. Here services were conducted after the manner of such religious gatherings in those primitive days, and for some years they had no regularly ordained minister.

We herewith quote from a speech delivered by the Hon. Sir John Carling at the laying of the foundation stone of the First Methodist Church in 1895, as follows:

“Sixty years ago, Methodist ministers did not reach the scene of their labors in steam or electric railway cars, or magnificent steamships, but travelled on horseback, not to churches as a general thing but to the scattered homes of the farmers, over roads that were, in many cases, but trails blazed through the primeval forest.”