

PREFACE.

THE following pages comprise a book so nondescript as to require, perhaps, an exposition of its character, mode of construction, and object. It is not a history, in the ordinary sense of that term, much less a single biography, nor yet a bundle of biographies; but a biographical history. The primary design is to give a presentation of one particular public man, the REV. WILLIAM CASE, and a secondary one, of all the Methodist Ministers and Preachers who have labored in the two Canadas, from the first till the time to which the work comes down, all of whom we have, in one way or another, connected with Mr. Case. His life is the principal stream, the others are the tributaries.

The several biographies thus combined, when completed, constitute a history of Canada Methodism from its plantation in the now united Provinces of Eastern and Western Canada, till 1855. There is nothing peculiar in this feature. The biography of a succession of leading men in any community, whether secular or religious, will ever necessarily constitute a history of that community. This historical issue, however,