

HISTORY

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN CANADA.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN OF METHODISM.

The Holy Club—Called Methodists—Their proceedings approved by the father of the Wesleys—The parents of the Wesleys—Careful religious training—Escape of John Wesley from death by fire—His mother's mind impressed thereby—Becomes his father's curate—Declines the living—The brothers sail for America—Disappointment and return—Continued disquietude of mind—Conversion of the brothers—They begin to preach a present salvation—Shut out of the churches—Field preaching—Multitudes flock to hear—First preaching-house—The foundry—Mr. Maxfield—John Nelson—Organization of classes—First Conference—Methodism spreads through England and Wales—Mr. Wesley visits Ireland—Mr. Williams—Mr. C. Wesley visits Dublin—Is mobbed—Well received elsewhere—John Wesley re-visits Ireland—Court Mattress—The Palatines.

THE commencement of the great religious movement which has produced the various Methodist bodies throughout the world, originated from the personal efforts of three students at the University of Oxford, in England. These young men being anxious to promote the glory of God, their own spiritual welfare, and the happiness of others, in the year 1729 formed themselves into a society for the purpose of reading the "Greek Testament, and in other respects assisting each other in a course of 'holy living' and useful study."