

## OBITUARIES.

### EMERSON BRISTOL.

The early settlers in this country were heroic men and brave-hearted women. With strong proclivities and determined wills, they were not easily turned from any course of life they chose to pursue.

When God had a message to send to those hardy sons and daughters of toil, He did not select either a coward or a weakling to convey that message. A coward may affect one who is like himself, but he cannot reach the lion-hearted and fearless sinners, such as many of these people were to whom the tidings of free salvation were to be carried.

Among the heroic men of the past in this land, few, if any, were better adapted by nature for ministering in holy things to such a class of persons than was the subject of these paragraphs.

With a clear discriminating intellect, with deep emotions, with unflagging energies, with strong convictions, an indomitable will and dauntless courage, all intensified by strong faith in God and a burning love for souls, he went forth to his work as the conqueror goes to conflict and to victory.

Emerson Bristol was born in Palmyra, New York. He came to Canada in 1829 with his parents, and settled in the County of Haldimand. In 1835 he was converted under circumstances somewhat peculiar. When but a lad he was powerfully convicted of sin, and instead of yielding to give his heart to God he compromised with his conscience by making a solemn promise to his God, that when he should get a home of his own and become settled in life he would seek and serve the Lord. He subsequently married and bought a farm on the Canboro' road near the Welland River. When he came home on the evening he had made the last payment on the farm, he sat down in the dining-room to partake of the supper his wife had prepared for him. Just then the promise he had made to God some years before seemed to stand before him like a living presence. He shoved back from the table and knelt in prayer to God for salvation. Then and there he was converted, and there he consecrated himself to God and gave himself to his Master for service. It soon became evident to himself and others that his line of work was in the Christian ministry. In 1840 he left secular pursuits and joined the itinerant ranks of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, which then was composed of one Annual Conference and about 5,000 members. His ability and success as a soul-winner soon brought him into favor with the people, and his push and earnestness soon placed him into prominence in the Conference. He soon became one of the leaders in the Church, and by his

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