

After an absence in the eastern part of the Province for some years, Mr. Leeming returned to Dundas, where he died in 1872, aged eighty-two. For forty years, therefore, after he ceased duty at Ancaster, he was available for those who sought his register. Since his death historians have blamed him as unsystematic. A recent writer, in writing of Ancaster's first missionary, says: "There was once a great lawyer who had three kinds of handwriting, one that the public could read, one that only his clerk could read, and one that nobody could read. To this latter class it is said, belonged the handwriting of the Reverend Ralph Leeming, which, probably, in some degree accounts for his leaving no journals, documents or registries of the churchly doings of those times, which would now have been so interesting a phonograph to sound in our ears, the echoes of olden days floating round the people's church and the ministers' hearthstone." And again: "He left no scrap of the pen behind him to enlighten us as to the churchly doings of those first days whom he buried, whom he married, whom he christened, what their names were; all, all is lost, passed long since unrecorded to the land of forgotten things."

The gaps in the register are not yet satisfactorily accounted for. There is no registry of burials in this book. The register is not complete, perhaps, but the missing pages may yet be supplied. There is sufficient here, nevertheless, to refute the general accusation against Mr. Leeming.

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