

SKETCH OF A WESLEYAN MINISTER.

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There are few names on the Minutes of Conference which have been more prominently before our Church, or that have had a more distinguished place in the archives of Canadian Methodism, than that with which we head this sketch. A few—but only a few—have expressed something like surprise at his position, from their estimate of what is called talent. To our mind there is nothing singular or incongruous in the case, and we really rejoice that Methodism delights to honor men of his mould and stamp. The glory shall have departed from us, when that which is flippant and gaudy shall be preferred to that which is solid and enduring; and when pillars of poplar or basswood, well veneered and highly varnished, shall be substituted for pillars of oak, with the polish of laborious friction. The history of his life has been that of a Methodist Preacher,—he never aspired to be more, and he never sank beneath the dignity of his calling. He has occupied most places of importance that his brethren could bestow with acceptability and success, and for a longer period than any of his coevals; besides he has a position distinguished from them all, in his constant labor in the regular Circuit work.

Christianity takes a man as it finds him,—it has no exact model on earth by which it shapes him; it gives of course to each converted man the same relation to his God, and each undergoes a purifying process. To his principles and affections it gives a higher aim and spiritual tendency. A man of courage and energy has these natural virtues still,—of warm and emotional nature, his heart still flows; but the field for his energetic action becomes changed—his passions are influenced by holy love, his intellectual powers are engaged in loftier studies and reflections. The leading traits and characteristics of mind are still the same; the mould into which it is cast, does not change the metal, but purifies and gives it a new form. This is the case exactly with our subject, and we know of no Wesleyan Minister whose natural man may be more easily read or more perfectly understood. There is no mantle thrown over him,—no guise, no dissimulation. Some men are prone to dissemble,—natural hypocrites; but here is a model of transparency and integrity. His natural virtues are not the most pleasing and attractive,—nothing soothing, nothing fascinating so as to win the hearts and gain the affections; and he is armed so strong in honesty as to loathe the approach to dissimulation, and he is ready to spurn you with withering contempt, if you were to breathe the slightest whisper in regard to the purity of his principles and rectitude of his conduct,—and