

## JOHN A. ROGERS,

The son of Anthony and Sarah Rogers, was born in New York, May 11th, 1811. His parents moved to Schenectady, where his father died in 1819, and his mother in 1823.

In 1825, he entered a clerkship in Albany and remained there till he was twenty-one years old. During these years the Spirit of God convicted him of sin and kindled anxiety in his soul. On appealing for light to the minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which he then attended, he was referred to the ordinances of the Church. He had been baptized; he was now directed to confirmation and to the Lord's Supper as the means of securing peace to his soul. In 1837 he came to Carleton Island, in the St. Lawrence, and in 1838, he entered the employ of a Mr. Walsworth on Wolfe Island, a godly man, who, by his simple consistent life and his personal advice, induced the young Rogers to try the efficacy of private prayer and to give all his anxieties and troubles to his God. Here he turned to search the Scripture and to earnest, confessional prayer. In 1839, he was made happy in God's pardoning love. At this time, while reading the life of Hester Ann Rogers, and studying the Book of Discipline, his esteem for Methodism began to grow and his heart turned in this direction. In 1840, a local preacher, by name Forrester, came to the Island. Bro. Rogers gave him hearty support in his settlement among them. This man soon pressed Bro. Rogers into the harness of a revival service. In these services his own faith was wonderfully confirmed. In 1841, Thaddeus Lewis was appointed regular preacher to the Island. He proposed that Rogers should take license as an exhorter, and in July, 1842, he accorded with this proposal. In 1843 he went to Lansdowne Township to teach school. While here the occasion offered itself for him to do some work for God. He resolved to do it, and this resolution born of those divinely ordained circumstances was the turning point of his life. He gave himself to this work, and God gave him the mitre of an unquestionable ministry in the conversion of souls and in building up the faith of some of the children of English Methodism, whom poverty had driven to the wilds of this new world, whom isolation from the means of grace had caused to stumble and relapse into sin.

In 1846, he was proposed to be sent to Conference as a candidate for the ministry. He gave himself to the work of God. His first field of labor was Bonnechere, lying along the Madawaska, Bonnechere and Upper Ottawa rivers. Thither he went, his Bible, Hymn Book and Discipline his library; his clothes in his saddle-bags, the love of God in his heart, and his soul great with the theme of Redemption. The Rev. A. Wright was his Superintendent on this charge. In 1847, he attended Conference at Mallorytown. The Rev. Wright was removed to another field and Bro. Rogers returned to Bonnechere alone—alone, but to cover the entire work every two weeks, to preach almost every day and to walk or paddle five thousand miles that year. In 1848, he was sent to Winchester Mission. Here he became acquainted with and in the following year married her who was his companion in his joys, the sharer of his burdens to the very eventide of his life. He always took the