

# THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.

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THE REV. MANLY BENSON.\*

THE subject of this sketch belongs to the younger generation of the ministers of the Methodist Church of Canada. His life-story furnishes lessons for the emulation of the youth of our country, as showing what may be accomplished, without the aid of any special advantages or assistance, by means of indomitable energy and industry, accompanied by the providential guidance and blessing of God. Manly Benson was born in the year 1842, in Prince Edward County, Ontario, from which garden county of Canada so many Methodist ministers have hailed. He comes of the old U. E. Loyalist stock, who were the early founders of Canadian nationality on the beautiful banks of the Bay of Quinté. To this may be attributed the sturdy mental and moral, as well as physical, fibre by which he is characterized. The great element, however, in the development of his character, was his early conversion to God. This took place when he was ten years of age, at a special service held by the late Rev. Joseph Reynolds, then Superintendent of the Demorestville Circuit. He thus grew up under the fostering influences of the Sabbath-school, the class-meeting, the public and social means of grace. He has been saved by these influences from the many perils which beset the feet of the young and unwary, and has been spared the bitterness of mourning a youth wasted in rebellion

\* The portrait of the Rev. Manly Benson, which accompanies this sketch, is executed by the enterprising firm of R. Raw & Co., of Hamilton, lithographers and engravers. As lithograph engravers, we think we are safe in saying that their work is not excelled by any firm in the Dominion.