



## CHAPTER II.

WORK IN CANADA—WILLIAM CASE—JAMES EVANS AND HIS CO-LABOURERS  
IN THE GREAT LONE LAND, WITH SKETCHES OF REVS. PETER JONES,  
JOHN SUNDAY, AND HENRY STEINHEUR.

**F**OR many years the Methodist Church of Canada has taken a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the Indian tribes of the Great Dominion. For a long time its efforts were but feeble, and the results proportionally small. In the year 1823 an impetus was given to the work by the conversion of an Indian lad, who afterwards became the Rev. Peter Jones, a devoted and successful Missionary to his own people. When this Indian lad first stood up in a fellowship meeting, and told the simple story of his conversion, the presiding elder, the Rev. William Case, shouted out, "Glory to God! Now is the door opened for the work of conversion in his nation."

The report of what was going on in the Old Province of Upper Canada fired the hearts of the parent Wesleyan Missionary Society in England; and in the year 1840 they sent out, to what was then known as the Hudson's Bay Territories, the Rev. Messrs. Barnley, Rundle, and others, to be under the superintendence of the Rev. James Evans, who had been labouring in Upper Canada, but who left his successful work, and hurried away to assume, as desired, the leadership of that heroic band which, with apostolic zeal, was about to enter into the very heart of this then unknown region.

Mr. Evans, with his family, travelled all the way from Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior, to Norway House in a birch-bark canoe, a distance of many hundreds of miles. His library and household effects had to be shipped to London, England, and then re-shipped