

## PREFACE.

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A hundred years ago, there were in the Provinces of British North America, which now constitute the Dominion of Canada, about 20,000 Presbyterians and twenty-two Presbyterian ministers. The Presbyterians of the Dominion now number 755,199 and the number of Presbyterian ministers, including settled pastors, professors, ordained missionaries and retired ministers, is about 1,058. Of these ministers all but twenty-five belong to what is called "The Presbyterian Church in Canada," which was constituted by the union, in 1875, of previously separate branches of the Presbyterian Church. Fifty years ago, the Presbyterians of British North America had not undertaken any independent Foreign Mission work. Now, the Presbyterian Church in Canada not only carries on extensive Home Mission operations in the Provinces and Territories of the Dominion, but has established Foreign Missions of its own in the New Hebrides, in Trinidad, in Demerara, in Central India, and among the Chinese in the island of Formosa and the province of Honan; it has also undertaken a Mission to the Jews. Until the year 1842, there was in British North America no educational institution for the training of students for the Presbyterian ministry, with the exception of the Pictou Academy, which was opened in 1817. Now there are in the Dominion six Presbyterian colleges, one in Halifax, one in the city of Quebec, one in Montreal, one in Kingston, one in Toronto and one in Winnipeg. There are, moreover, three Foreign Mission Colleges of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, one in Formosa, one in Trinidad and one in Central India.

Considering that it was due to the memory of those who planted the Presbyterian Church in British North America and of those through whose labours it has, by God's blessing, grown from small beginnings to its present extent, it seemed proper that its history should be recorded. Accordingly, a few years ago the author of the present "Short History" published a large volume containing the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, brought down to the year 1834.