



## CHAPTER FIRST.

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### PARENTAGE AND EARLY EDUCATION.

SOME years ago it occurred to the writer to suggest to Dr. Mathieson that a leisure hour, now and again, might be spent, pleasantly to himself, and usefully to the future historian, in committing to paper some of those early reminiscences of men and things which had often served to beguile hours of social pastime. It seemed right that whatever was in them of historic interest should be rescued from oblivion, and desirable that even trivial occurrences bearing on the history of the Church should be preserved, not necessarily for publication, but as *memorabilia* which might hereafter be used or set aside as should be judged expedient. It was even hinted to him that, without exposing himself to the charge of egotism, he might write an autobiography; for, it was very certain that the time would come when the members of the Church of which he had so long been a minister would naturally seek for all the information that could be had concerning one who, during his later years, was familiarly known to them as the father of the Church of Scotland in Canada. The first part of the proposal was not foreign to the Doctor's habit and bent of mind. He was fond of writing and literally revelled amid the recollections of

