

## PREFACE.

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IN this history I have labored to place the original Methodists in their true position before the Christian Church and the public generally; and although some readers may think the following pages are more controversial in their character than is usual in such a work, it must be remembered that the first history of a country or a church should embrace, as far as possible, the leading incidents connected with its career.

Though I have in some instances (perhaps sharply) refuted the attacks made by leading men of the Canada Conference on the Methodist Episcopal Church in this country, I have not done so through malice, nor from personal ill-will to the parties engaged in the controversy; but from a consciousness of duty to God, to the Church, and to Christian liberty.

I have been at very great pains to collect proper material for this publication; and one of my most difficult tasks has been to condense and arrange the matter in a way suitable for such a sized book.

I have made as few notes as possible, and have not given the names of all the authorities whom I have consulted, in the body of the work, as it would have very much enlarged the volume and added to its price. I have consulted and am indebted to the following authors, pamphlets, and papers for much valuable information on Methodism. I am also indebted to many parties who have given me much reliable information that I could not derive from books.

I am indebted to European works as follows:—

Whitehead's "Life of Wesley;" Moore's "Life of Wesley;" Watson's "Life of Wesley;" "The Life of Charles Wesley;" "Ireland and the Centenary of Methodism," by Rev. William Crook, with several other English and Irish publications.