

years ago. For various reasons very little has been done, and it is a matter very much to be regretted. With much pleasure, however, we notice that several of our brethren have considered this subject in a practical way, and we entertain the hope that our columns will become the Repository of materials for the future historian of Methodism in Canada. The Rev. John Carroll deserves more than the mere thanks of the Church for the volume which he has recently published, entitled "*Past and Present; or, a Description of Persons and Events connected with Canadian Methodism for the last Forty Years.*" He describes himself as "a Spectator of the scenes," and the work is issued in a very creditable manner by Mr. Alfred Dredge of Toronto. Viewed as a contribution toward the History of Methodism, the book is exceedingly valuable; but apart from that, it abounds with facts and incidents of a highly interesting character, calculated to afford both instruction and amusement. We should like the latter word especially to receive its legitimate interpretation. We do not mean only that some of the narratives will provoke a smile, but that they will give spiritual pleasure to those who love the details of moral courage and heroism, combined with personal eccentricities and genuine innocent humour. We have read Mr. Carroll's work with great satisfaction, and cheerfully recommend it to our friends, wishing it may find a welcome in every Methodist family. Perhaps the 'Crayons' or characteristic sketches of living ministers have elicited more criticism than any other part of the work. The author himself seems to have had some misgivings respecting them, but he has subsided into calm contentment, and staves off future objections by assuring us that "at the present moment he is the most thoroughly criticised man in the connection." To this he does not appear to offer any ob-

jection, and therefore we take the liberty of suggesting that it would be well if he would write with a little more care. There is the appearance of haste in composition, as in the phrases "got acquainted," "got awakened," and "got there." The thoughts of our author flow swiftly, and therefore there is a sprightly *raciness* of style in all he writes, and although we should regret an approach to stately stiffness in him, it would nevertheless be advisable occasionally to rein up and review.

We most cordially recommend *Past and Present* to every Wesleyan family, and sincerely trust that the whole edition will soon be exhausted, and that the commendable desire of the author expressed in the conclusion of the preface may be fully answered. The book can be obtained from most of our Ministers, or from the publisher, A. Dredge, 88, Yonge Street, Toronto, price 75 cents.

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Abundance of Commentaries on the Sacred Scriptures have been published from the earliest times to the present, many of them exceedingly valuable and helpful to the Christian student. We design no disparagement to any when we declare that the one recently issued by the Methodist Book Concern, New York, is in many respects superior to all of its kind and extent. The first volume now before us is entitled "*A Commentary on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.* Intended for popular use. By D. D. Wheeldon, D.D." It will be followed by two others embracing "The remaining Historical Books of the New Testament, and a third upon the Epistles." The notes, without the appearance of verbal criticism, could have been produced only by a ripe scholar, and afford evidence of a profound acquaintance with the original language and idiom of the New Testament Greek. Just such a Commentary