

# "First Church Endeavorer."

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

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## First Church Endeavorer,

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## A Retrospect.

THE history of the First Meth. Church is full of interest. It is the record of noble work done for the Master, and the foundations raised in the early days have been found secure for the structure that has been raised upon them. The spot upon which this church stands is indeed historic ground. Here the first school-house in Hamilton was erected, and the children of the early settlers came to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic. This centre of educational influence stood where Mr. Bristow's house is at present, and was used on the Sabbath for a place of worship. The site for the church was deeded to the Methodists by the father of Col. Land on the 11th of June, 1823. It seems fitting that the first family to settle in Hamilton should give to God's people the ground upon which to build a house to worship Him in. In 1824 the church was opened and was considered the finest one in this part of the Province. For a number of years it was the only place of worship in Hamilton, and was attended by people of all denominations. The names of the noble men and women who founded

Methodism in our city, should be held in loving remembrance by us. We find names in connection with our church which will always fill a place in the history of our country. Perhaps the most illustrious name of all is one dear to every Canadian, that of Egerton Ryerson, who was connected with this church at an early period. One of our ministers at the recent Centennial meeting held in Centenary Church, said that among the heroes of the past, side by side with Pym and Hampden, would rank the name of Egerton Ryerson, the man who for years fought for equal rights in connection with the Methodist Church. We all know something of the grand work he has done for our country in giving her the best Public Schools in the world. His wife, Hannah Aikman, who was one of the Sunday School scholars, lies buried in the hallowed ground surrounding the church, and the stone that was placed over her grave can still be seen with its quaint inscription.

TO THE MEMORY OF

Mrs. Hannah Ryerson,

WIFE OF

Egerton Ryerson, a Methodist Itinerant Preacher.

SHE WAS BORN AUGUST 4th, 1804.

DIED JANUARY 31st, 1832.

In sure and certain hope of Eternal Life,  
Through the atonement and mediation  
of a crucified Saviour.

SHE WALKED WITH GOD.

Meet for the fellowship above,  
She heard the call, arise my love,  
I come! her dying words replied,  
And lamb-like, as her Lord, she died.

Our oldest written record in connection with the Sunday School goes back to June 18th, 1826, when we have the names of twelve boys and twenty-four girls. The names are all familiar to those who know anything about the early history of Hamilton. The boys class was composed of the following members:—Collins Barnham, Oliver Springer, Quitton Price, Richard Springer, John Mills, Josuha Applegath, Robert Land,