

When very young the family removed from Reeth to Wakefield, where, when he was six years old, his mother died. At the age of nine he went to Friends' School, at Ackworth, where he remained until 1835, when with his father, four sisters and three brothers, he came to Puslinch, Ontario. Here they encountered the usual hardships incident to pioneer life in a new country. Naturally ambitious and unfitted by the slightness of his physique for arduous toil in the uncleared wilderness, he early determined to become a teacher, and devoted all his scanty leisure to earnest study with that object in view. His first school, obtained when he was 23, was in the township of Eramosa. At 26 he married Jemima Harris Balls, whose home-loving and self-effacing qualities for over 50 years of wedded life made possible his frequent incursions into the wider field of public service.

It was in 1850 that William Wetherald started the private school which afterwards was famed through the Dominion as Rockwood Academy, and it was here, at Rockwood (near Guelph), that he accomplished, if not the most important, certainly the most continuously difficult work of his life. Having been almost entirely his own teacher, his self-gained knowledge was subjected to that severest of all tests—the necessity of imparting it efficiently to others. His natural aptitude for teaching and delight in it, added to the earnestness of his purpose, the strength of his convictions, and the warm personal interest he took in each individual under his care, greatly endeared him to his pupils and made him a memorable influence for good in the lives of all who came in contact with him. Rigid disciplinarian though he was, he won the allegiance of his pupils by an intellectual power they were compelled to respect, and a moral enthusiasm to which they could not fail to respond.

In 1864 William Wetherald accepted the position of Superintendent of Haverford College, near Philadelphia, but returned to Ontario in 1866, where he settled with his family on a farm in Pelham. It was at this time that he definitely devoted his life to the work of the ministry, although he had some years previously been acknowledged a minister by Pelham Monthly Meeting.

With the exception of a temporary withdrawal from the Society of Friends—six years (1880-86) spent as pastor of the Congregational Church of St. Catharines—William Wetherald devoted the rest of his life to preaching in Friends' Meetings at home and abroad. The record of these unnumbered journeys, of these countless sermons, has never been kept, save in the hearts of

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