

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

THE REV. JOSEPH WHEELER.

The Rev. Joseph Wheeler, of Bolton village, was born at Lingbridge Deverhill, Wiltshire, England, Sept. 4th, 1808. He was the youngest of a family of six children—three boys and three girls. But little is known of his parents, except that they were poor, and attended the Independent Chapel of the place. The very limited early education he enjoyed was received at the day school connected with the chapel. His mother died when he was but ten years of age. His father soon married again, and the further superintendence of his earlier life was left to him and the boy's stepmother. He was put to the occupation of a tile-maker in his native town. Two months and a day after he became of age, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Cowley, of the same place, who for nearly half a century was the affectionate partner of his joys and sorrows, and who, with an adopted daughter respectably settled in life, now survives to mourn his loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, with others of their native town, emigrated to Canada in the year 1831. Their place of settlement was in the township of Dummer, in the neighbourhood of Rice Lake. After a brief period, the summer frost and unaccustomed backwoods toils drove them to the State of New York. Here our subject took up the trade of a carriage ironer. It must have been while here, or immediately after his return to Canada, that he gave himself more decidedly than ever to the service of the Saviour. Lines entitled "Mother's Grave," written at the age of fourteen, show not only the high estimate in which he held her, but breathe a spirit of Christian resignation and hope which indicates that his early religious education had been neither neglected nor fruitless. But, July 27th, 1837, he entered into formal covenant with the Lord by an "INDENTURE," signed and sealed, in which he declares, "I do hereby and this day render myself unreservedly to thy service, O, Lord." Not very far from this time, it was, doubtless, that the Rev. J. Roaf, of Toronto, "found him near Norwood by Rice Lake, blacksmithing and preaching, and was taken with him." In the year of his ordination, 1839, he records "a renewal of a former covenant," March 14th, in which he prays: "henceforth, O, God, give

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