

and flowing in style than it otherwise would have been. In answer to this he has to say, that he would have been not much less a mere compiler, had he substituted his own words for theirs, and he might not have greatly improved the style in doing so. But his real motive has been twofold. First, he has been desirous to give actual specimens of the modes of thought and expression of the men he would portray and memorialize, as well as describe their lives and characters. Secondly, he has wished, in a readable form, to write and put on record a number of interesting and valuable reports and details of the work of God in Canada, scattered among other documents, and contained in periodicals out of print, which are fast wearing out and being lost.

3. The spelling of certain words is not in all cases uniform; and some of it may seem fanciful and erroneous. This is not the place for assigning his reasons; but the author, on principle, omits the *u* out of the diphthong *ou*, in words ending in *our*, where the *o* sound alone is preserved. But sometimes his editor or proof-readers, with their orthodox ideas, have supplied the *u*; or it has been left in words of the above mentioned character which have occurred in quotations. This is one of the instances of the want of uniformity, with its cause. Another has been this: the writer has a maxim, whether right or wrong, that in all monosyllabic words which have acquired a conventional meaning, or use, such as *but*, or *net*. the final consonant should be doubled, in which case,