

CHAPTER II.

One sultry Saturday afternoon in the midsummer of 1790 the Rev. William Losee came riding in on horseback into the Heck Settlement. (He had ridden forty miles that day.) A young man, twenty-eight years of age, a tall and well-built figure, he wore a coarse felt hat, homespun snuff-colored coat, with leather leggings; behind him were the saddle bags containing his books and coarse frieze coat. Such was the way those early pioneers, champions of Christ and early Methodism, planted the Cross of Jesus Christ and His power to save unto the uttermost; going by blazed trees through the dense forests of Canada, and in birch canoes over lakes and rivers. What does Methodism not owe to those Nehemiahs of the Cross! On the next day, it being the Sabbath, he preached in the house of Paul and Barbara Heck, from the words: "Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." He had ridden forty miles the day before on horseback, the circuit, mission or wilderness at this time being from the boundary between Lower and Upper Canada on the East, the Saint Lawrence on the South, as far West as where the City of Kingston now stands, and North as far as he could go. In the years 1792 and 1793, this honored person of God, the Rev. William Losee, was the "Apostle" in the formation of the first Methodist Churches in this Eastern part of this vast mission field of labor. On the Sabbath he first preached in Canada, in the Heck house, in the morning the house being filled to overflowing, the evening service, on account of the great gathering, had to be held in the barn. The fame of the preacher had spread far and wide, and, moved by devotion, by curiosity, or by a desire to scoff and scorn, the whole neighborhood was present. One of the latter class was a reckless and wild young man, named Joe

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