

DEDICATION.

To the busy, often weary, people of our period, who would like to know, at least in fair outline, the dawn, the morning and the early day in the life of a Church now shedding its salutary influence far and wide, but who need refreshment of spirit while they seek truth of statement, this book is dedicated.

It is counted an author's privilege to dedicate his work to any whose advantage the work is especially meant to promote, or whose approval he would reckon especially honorable and gratifying. This book is designed for those who have none too much time for reading. The round of daily engagements and the stern struggles for a living, the imperious call to which we are born and bound to obey, leave us for literature only a little more time than is needed for a decent acquaintance with things now passing. Nor can we, when the summons of business is satisfied, easily command the energy of mind needed for the effort of deep and careful study; unless the matter before us is offered briefly, clearly and agreeably, we soon become weary, and our grasp of it relaxes. Yet there are many things which we would like to know, and which we can but think we ought to know.

One of these is the Historic Course of Methodism : Its Rise, Progress and Present Position. If we are Methodists, this is to us a matter so near and important that to know nothing of it, and to be strangers to the men who have appeared in it, is hardly respectable. If we are not Methodists it should still interest us to know how some five and one-half millions of active and spiritual Protestants came to the organism in which to-day they are working. To all who would like this knowledge, and like it in a faithful but easy and fresh presenting, the author dedicates his work, for with such he is in perfect sympathy.