

FOREWORD.

I have for a number of years been gathering, from a variety of sources, the facts and figures from which I have arranged, for the Methodists of Bonavista and adjacent towns and settlements, an account of the labors of the early Methodist preachers and the people among whom they laboured. My purpose has been to awaken in the present generation, and particularly the rising portion of the same, an interest in the Church to which their forefathers contributed their humble part in making it what it is to-day.

It may interest the young to find their namesakes among those, who four generations ago, endeavoured to live the simple christian life. How they aided the cause they loved by precept and example, and what their ancestors were like in the days of the open fire place, the pot hangers and the tallow candle. The days when necessity was the mother of many inventions. Some say that the moral and social conditions were better than now, and they prized their religious privileges more, because they had not so many. Those were the days when they believed in revivals and prayed until they received showers of blessing. I hope this humble effort will invoke some interest in the minds of the young and those of riper years. I have woven a wreath in memory of the twelve brave boys who nobly laid down their lives for King and Country. May the others return to us in safety. Bonavista has of late years been advancing along industrial and economic lines. May our spiritual advancement be commensurate with our temporal prosperity. In handing over the results of many hours investigation, I ask you to give these short chapters your careful perusal. You have no cause to be ashamed of, nor need you make an apology for your Methodism. You will be better citizens as the result of a better acquaintance with your godly ancestry, and better Methodists from a more intimate knowledge of the doctrines and polity of Methodism.

CHARLES LENCH.

Bonavista, Oct. 31st, 1918.