

GRIMSBY CAMP-MEETING.

THE camp-meeting seems to have been a prominent feature of the early religious life of Canada. Long before there were towns or villages, the scattered settlers were wont to gather occasionally in those primitive meetings.

When the little log houses were miles apart, and men and women were engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle with the forest, the wild beasts, and poverty, there was in some places little time or thought devoted to religious subjects. Isolated, and engaged continually in this fight, it is not surprising that they sometimes forgot their early training and grew cold and indifferent toward religious matters. Children were born, and sometimes half grown, in some localities, before they had ever heard a sermon or seen a church. It was then that the Methodist Church sent forth missionaries to carry the comforts of the Gospel to those solitary families. Many of these men were as poor as their parishioners, and as hardy and brave. Travelling on horseback, in all kinds of weather, over the length and breadth of the immense circuits, the story of their hardships and adventures reads like a romance. Their forms stand out distinctively in the history of those early times. They were men of heroic type, and many of them would have been prominent in any country or age. Their successors were largely of the same cast, and some of them can be remembered by persons now living.