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Hugh & Bowen

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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONNEXION

FROM ITS ORIGIN
TO
THE CONFERENCE OF 1859.

COMPILED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE DENOMINATION,
AND APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE.

BY JOHN PETTY.

PREPARATORY TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST JUBILEE OF THE CONNEXION.

LONDON:
RICHARD DAVIES, CONFERENCE OFFICES,
SUTTON STREET, COMMERCIAL ROAD EAST;
ALL BOOKSELLERS; AND MAY BE HAD OF THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINISTERS.

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P R E F A C E.

An authentic History of the Primitive Methodist Connexion has long been regarded by many of its friends as a desideratum. A brief "History of the Primitive Methodists, giving an account of their rise and progress to the year 1823," was published by Mr. Hugh Bourne, and extensively circulated. But that work has long been out of print; and as it only extended to the year above-named, a larger and more comprehensive History has for many years been demanded. The necessity of a more ample and extended record of the origin and progress of the Connexion, was increasingly felt as the fiftieth year of its history approached. With the view of meeting this requirement, and of promoting the best interests of the denomination, the author of the following History, at the recommendation of several influential brethren, was induced to commence preparation for it in the year 1856. The Conference of 1857 was pleased to appoint him to write the work, and considerably made provision for all necessary official documents being placed at his service. The journals and papers of the late Mr. Hugh Bourne, were also purchased under Conferential direction, and entrusted to the care of the author, to assist him in his undertaking.

These documents, journals, and papers, the brief History of the Connexion by Mr. H. Bourne, the Denominational Magazine from the commencement, the Journals and the Life of Mr. Clowes, the Memoir of M. Batty, and all other published works, casting light upon the origin and progress of the Community, have been carefully examined, and rendered tributary to the following work. Many of the author's ministerial brethren, and other esteemed friends, have also rendered valuable service by communications respecting the missionary labours in which they have been engaged, or of which they have been witnesses.