

**JOHN SANDERSON THE  
FIRST: OR, A PIONEER  
PREACHER AT HOME**

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John Sanderson the First: or, A pioneer preacher at home by Camilla Sanderson

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**CAMILLA SANDERSON**

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FIRST: OR, A PIONEER  
PREACHER AT HOME**





*Yours truly  
John Sanderson*

# John Sanderson the First

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or, A Pioneer Preacher at  
Home

BY  
CAMILLA SANDERSON

With an Introduction by  
REV. PROF. F. H. WALLACE, M.A., D.D.  
Dean of the Faculty of Theology,  
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Toronto

TORONTO  
WILLIAM BRIGGS  
1910

**EMMANUEL**

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TO

The four of us who are left of Father's  
big family, and to the children  
born of his soul travail,

I DEDICATE  
THIS LITTLE BOOK

C.S.





## INTRODUCTION.

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ONE of my earliest recollections of my introduction to the good city of Peterborough, Ontario, in 1878, is that of a brief conversation with the wife of the then superannuated Methodist minister, Rev. John Sanderson, the subject of this book.

I shall never forget the graphic account which Mrs. Sanderson gave of her early experiences of the itinerancy—the little log parsonage, set in the midst of a tiny clearing in the woods, walled in on every side with the dark, stately, primeval forest; her loneliness during the long absences of her husband on his extensive itineraries; her horror of the wolf's long howl through the dreary night. I count it a great pleasure to have known Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson and their family and now to be allowed to write a few words of introduction to this delightful volume.

Rev. John Sanderson was a typical Methodist minister of the old school, a man of excellent ability, a genial Irish temperament which made him at home everywhere, an unsullied record, a thoroughly useful career. He and his good English wife are to be

## INTRODUCTION.

reckoned among the men and women who have made Methodism, who have made Canada.

Their daughter has most lovingly and charmingly depicted their life and character. The style is fresh, naive, vivacious; the book abounds in graphic descriptions of places, persons and events; there are many touches both of humor and of pathos; there are frequent glimpses into the details of the daily life not only of the parsonage, but also of the general community of fifty years ago which make that period and that phase of our history live over again to the reader.

As we read, we see the people gathering from far and near to the old-time preaching service, the high-wrought interest of the quarterly meeting, the itinerant's long rides through the lonely forest, the trials and triumphs of a long and faithful ministry. But we also see such details of the home life as make the story intensely human. We are perhaps surprised to find in those earlier days, with what we had thought their "simple life," the insistence of that same problem of "domestic help" which we had supposed peculiar to our own time. We behold the flutter of household excitement when some great man, notably that prince of preachers, William Ryerson, visits the parsonage and the church. We have delightful reminiscences of such men as Kennedy Creighton, Edward Hartley Dewart, "Father" Case, Lachlin Taylor,