

**THE PEOPLE'S LIFE OF THE
REV. PETER MACKENZIE:
THE MAN AND HIS WORK**

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The People's Life of the Rev. Peter Mackenzie: The Man and His Work by R. Wilberforce Starr

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R. WILBERFORCE STARR

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OF THE
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THE MAN AND HIS WORK.

BY THE
REV. R. WILBERFORCE STARR.

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"Hush! I will give you this leaf to keep.
See, I shut it inside the sweet cold hand!
There, that is our secret, go to sleep!
You will wake and remember and understand."

INTRODUCTION.

Methodists of all denominations, and hundreds of thousands of others who are of sister Churches, and even more still who belong to no Church at all, can scarcely yet credit that the great-hearted and wondrously-gifted Peter Mackenzie is no longer in their midst. His cheery voice and sunny smile at the cab-stand or ticket-office, on the domestic doorstep, or public platform, will be heard and seen no more; and the multitudes who hung upon his lips with delight and profit must look now for another instructor, or remain ungathered. His wise and witty words yet linger in hundreds of towns and villages, and will be tenderly repeated with thankful acknowledgment for many a long year to come. The places that knew him shall know him no more, and no other can fill them. He had no forerunner, and he can have no successor. The record of such a man will be safe and sacred in the hands of his Church, and indeed far beyond, while every item concerning his work and life will be treasured up with more than miserly care.

Already the Life of this wonderful man has been written with discrimination, though with necessary haste, and several attempts have been made, with more or less

accuracy and taste, to give the eager multitude a cheap popular account of the man beloved and known so well.

From exceptional opportunities of personal knowledge and intercourse extending over long years, I have, with reverent love, set down here the result of that knowledge with associated information from only reliable quarters. Concerning such a man, rumour has been busy for years, and will continue to find unenviable occupation. All kinds of absurd and impossible things have been and will be connected with his name and work. Leading a momentary, fugitive life, the northern papers have been full of them. Sifting the wheat from the chaff, I have here endeavoured to present the man as he really was, and his work as it was splendidly done, hoping that the attempt of one who loved and revered him will find acceptance and acknowledgment in not a few hearts.

R. W. S.

REV. PETER MACKENZIE.

CHAPTER I.

LIFE IN SCOTLAND.

IN a mere scrap of a diary the subject of this small book records the fact of his birth thus:—
“I was born in Glen Shee, North Highlands of Scotland, on the 11th of November, 1824.”

That is all we have of the child's start in life; and are left in almost total darkness concerning the antecedents of his family. How Peter's father, an Englishman, came so far north we know not, but thus it was his famous boy was born under the shadow of the Perthshire hills.

Glen Shee, a small Scotch village, is quite out of the run of the tripper and tourist, and even the wandering easel or camera; but, like many an obscure hamlet, it has leaped into sudden fame as being the quiet nook where a man, whose unblemished name will long be cherished as a “household word,” first saw the light.