

THE ADDRESS OF THE PASTORAL SESSION OF THE
BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE TO THE
CHURCHES UNDER ITS CARE.

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

We gratefully acknowledge the vital relationship existing between us as pastors and people of the body of Christ. We have been chosen by you and the Holy Ghost "to feed the Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood." The scriptural and honorable distinctions pertaining to the Christian ministry involve the gravest responsibilities. When you consider the vital and far-reaching importance of the divine commission to preach Christ, "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus," and what is implied in being "our example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity," the great wisdom of delaying the ordination of the candidates for our ministry until they have given full proof of their high calling must be very evident to you. And inasmuch as the first steps towards the holy office taken by our young men, are permitted and endorsed by our official boards, a large share of the responsibility for the character of our ministry rests with you. There is great need of care in recommending to the courts of our Church candidates for its ministry. The one supreme question you are expected to answer is, "Has the candidate given sufficient evidence that he is called of God to preach the Gospel?" The duty of the Church is to endorse and give effect to the call of God. To allow any considerations of personal friendship or worldly circumstances to take precedence of the voice of the Holy Spirit is a very serious wrong. We therefore exhort you to guard sacredly the door to the ministry of our Church.

Next in importance to the character of the ministry of our Church is the religious life of its membership. On the principle, "like people, like priest," it is evident that to secure a godly ministry there must be a godly membership. The early training of the heart and mind will reappear in mature life. If the young people, who are to fill the most sacred and influential offices of our Church, grow up with uncertain views of our cardinal doctrines and with little sympathy for our distinctive means of grace or respect for the rules of our societies, the decline of our Church may be predicted with certainty. We exhort you to encourage by all wise means the teaching and acceptance of the scriptural, time-honored and eminently fruitful doctrines of Methodism. Our social means of grace have been handed down to us endorsed by an ancestry of intelligent,