

PASTORAL ADDRESS.

*The Annual Address of the Primitive Methodist Conference to the
Members of the Church.*

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD :

At the close of another annual gathering of your Representatives, it becomes our duty and privilege to address to you a few words of greeting and counsel. As your Representatives, we recognize your right to expect from us an account of our doings; and though these will be given you in the published Minutes, yet we have pleasure in referring to them now. The Sessions of Conference have this year been of more than ordinary interest. For the first time in our history as a people in this country, we have been favored with the presence of a Representative of the Parent Church in England. Agreeably with the expressed wishes of former Conferences, the authorities of the English Denomination determined to send one of their principal brethren to visit our land, and spend a short time in visiting our principal Stations. Their selection of the Rev. Samuel Antliff has been a happy one. His ripened experience, matured judgment, scholarly attainments, and sanctified eloquence proved him to be eminently fitted to represent a Body which has in its Ministry and Communion many whom God delights to honor. As our President, Mr. Antliff did us good service. His sermons and addresses on public occasions were of the highest order, and the crowds which gathered to hear him evidenced the acceptability of his ministrations.

Among the many questions which claimed our attention, none perhaps was greater than the one referring to the proposed amalgamation of all the Methodist Churches in this country. After a day and a half spent in a more than ordinarily free and unreserved expression of views on this subject, it was resolved, by a large majority, that such amalgamation was impracticable. While desirous of cultivating the most brotherly feelings towards all branches of the

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