

## PASTORAL ADDRESS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF  
EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA.

VERY DEAR BRETHREN,—

In the name of our Divine Saviour we pray that mercy, peace, and love may be multiplied unto you. It has been our custom, from year to year, to address you from our Conference on subjects relating to your personal experience of the grace of God, your practice of His holy will, and the general prosperity of religion throughout the Connexion. On the present occasion we deem it no less needful than formerly to "give all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation," and still to "exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints."

While, with us, you will rejoice that the gospel of Christ is extending its triumphs in the world, and that it must continue to diffuse its blessings until all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God, yet you cannot be ignorant that dangers of no ordinary kind are now menacing the Church on every side. If our prospect is not wholly "dark," neither is it perfectly "clear." The truth of God's own word is called in question by sophisms as plausible as they are pernicious. The arrogance of Romanism, which has so long sought to dethrone the Redeemer of mankind, and has disowned the offices of the Holy Spirit to elevate a priesthood which teaches "for doctrines the commandments of men," has displayed itself very fully of late, even among those who are professedly set for the defence of the gospel; and, garnished with an elaborate system of rites and ceremonies, persistently seeks to multiply its varieties by beguiling "unstable souls." And, withal, pride and fashion, covetousness and deception, impurity and intemperance prevail to an alarming extent, and like a pestilential atmosphere exert a baneful influence upon society in general.

W  
to be  
the l  
cold  
the p  
upon  
of the  
done,  
For th  
and w  
subjec  
selves  
souls, a  
in orde  
out the  
We  
in these  
joy that  
and su  
all pers  
utteranc  
boldly,  
As al  
of your  
against  
"Our ci  
be confor  
the New  
and to a  
prie to  
ourselves  
seek to "  
we endea  
the lost, le  
fear, pulli  
ted by the  
works of d