

in order that we might be enabled to establish the means of grace in every civilized settlement, and amongst every pagan tribe throughout all this great North-West. He has heard—He has answered our prayers—Methodism is united—her forces are rallied—her men are ready to go forth, but “how can they preach except they be sent?”

In God's government opportunity always implies obligation. He never opens a door that he does not expect us to enter. In a critical period of national life a door opens, and some Oliver Cromwell or Abraham Lincoln, not distinguished above his fellows, steps forward into the breach. Events rally to his support. His boldness kindles the enthusiasm of his followers, and thus he steps up into everlasting dominion. If we enter not those doors as they open before us, what may we expect but confusion and disaster?

We look at our present position as a Church, occupying as it does the foremost place in this great Dominion. We begin to recount the labours, the sacrifices, the discouragements, the privations, that were necessary to make our beloved Methodism what it is to-day. As we do so, there comes to our mind the solemn responsibility under which we are placed by God to provide for the declining years of those who, by reason of age or as a result of failing health, have been compelled to retire from the active duties of Circuit work. It is our duty, brethren, to smooth the pathway to the tomb of those venerable men who, by the toils of their prime, have made not only Methodism but Canada what they are to-day. The General Conference of your Church has devised a scheme for the sustaining of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund. It provides that “the principle of assessment shall be applied in an equitable manner to all the Circuits, in order so to augment the annual income of the Fund as to make it equal to the annual claims thereon. Each Circuit or Mission is required to raise its proportion of the amount requisite to pay the Superannuated Ministers and Ministers' Widows their full disciplinary claim.” Brethren, it is our desire that you aid us in carrying out these instructions.

We would affectionately urge upon your serious attention the religious interests of the children of all our families. Childhood is the fort that commands the future as regards the work of God in any Church or country. This fort we must take and hold at all cost. The means we would suggest for its attainment are—1. A proper conception of family life. Every household should have its altar of prayer, and every father should be priest in his own household. On the purity and simplicity of the family depend the stability of our whole social fabric. It is the model of government which God gave the world in the time of its infancy, and its character will most surely determine that of both the Church and the nation.

2. Gather the children into the Sunday schools. Let them there be faithfully instructed in the “principles of the doctrine of Christ.” Provide the schools plentifully with the publications of your own Church. You cannot overestimate the influence of this work on the Church of the future. These little ones are to be the men and women of the Church of to-morrow. “When Bonaparte desolated Germany, the Hohenzollern family began the work of repair and revenge in the very cradles of Germany. Mothers bore and trained their sons for the army and glory of Germany.” Thus the old Emperor lives to humiliate his great enemy, and