

the efficient and successful working of the system, on the structure of which so much care has been bestowed.

Among the additional functions and responsibilities devolving upon us, as, in our Conferential capacity, your collective Pastorate, it will be our duty, following the example of the English Conference, henceforth to issue an Annual Address, which will be an official exponent of our views on all questions affecting the interests of the cause of God among us, as well as a convenient medium, through which to convey to you, as occasion may suggest, our affectionate admonitions and exhortations on the various topics of personal godliness, family religion, and social and relative duties. The opening of such a channel of communication, through which may flow forth to you, without restraint, from year to year, those tender and sacred sensibilities, which, while we sustained the relation of Missionary Districts, were, to a great extent, necessarily repressed, we hail with sincere pleasure.

We gladly avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity to open the sluices of those affections by the warm and spontaneous flow of which, we are solicitous, on the recurrence of every Conference anniversary, to afford you profitable and convincing proof that we naturally care for your state.

From the wide range of subjects of which the auspicious commencement of a new era in the annals of Methodism in these Colonies is suggestive, we are anxious to embody in this our first Address, such, and only such matters, as imperatively demand your immediate earnest attention and regard, in order that you may be workers together with us, in carrying out with ardent zeal and unflinching decision, the great and glorious purposes, for the accomplishment of which the provident and paternal wisdom of our revered Fathers in England has,—deeming that under their fostering care we have attained our spiritual majority,—placed us in our present dignified, yet deeply responsible, position.

By our hearty concurrence in the leading principles that lie at the foundation of the new arrangement, we virtually and in good faith, *pledge* ourselves to employ all appropriate and necessary means and appliances to sustain with fidelity and usefulness the position we have thus voluntarily

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