

PASTORAL ADDRESS,

*To the Members of the Primitive Methodist Church, from
the Canadian Conference.*

DEARLY-BELOVED BRETHREN,—The Delegates sent by you to the Fifteenth Annual Conference, assembled in the City of Hamilton in the spirit of peace and brotherly love.

The past year furnishes matter for serious thought and reflection. Death has invaded in our ranks : young and old have been called to their reward. In some instances the call has come suddenly ;—in all cases, let us hope, safely. May the lesson be profitable to all ! “ Be ye also ready.” We have to record the present loss of a highly esteemed and useful standard-bearer, Brother W. E. Cooper, who was cut down in the prime of life and promising usefulness : yet it is satisfactory to know that the truths he preached, and the gospel we proclaim and believe, sustained him at the last : he died triumphant, and is forever with the Lord. Also several beloved Brethren in the Ministry have been afflicted by prolonged illness during the year. Let your prayers ascend to the Father of all our mercies on their behalf, that soon they may be able to resume their loved work.

The Conference deeply regrets that the increase of membership is not larger, or to that extent which we have reason to believe ever follows the unremitting toil of an united and holy Church. Many reasons were given for this state of things, accounting for such partial success ; but nothing satisfactory to relieve the doubt lingering on our responsibility that there must be unemployed talent, and lack of holy living and strong faith in God, amongst us. Let us search out these spots in our charity, and join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant. Dear Brethren, seek for a more heartfelt sympathy with a free and full salvation, the landmarks of our Methodism. Holiness is power ; and what a mysterious power is this : it is not talent, for the untalented often possess it : it is unction—

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