

expressed—to express the pleasure with which he saw Dr. James in the Presidential chair of the Conference. He trusted that the year of his Presidency would be a year of very great prosperity. In expecting this he was only judging by his knowledge of the past, considering that the President was endowed with so much of the traditional wisdom of *James*, and of the traditional tenderness of *John*, helped forward by the counsel of the good men at each side of him, and, not least, by the Wiseman, whom the brethren had wisely chosen to be seated by his side. He (Mr. Punshon) must now, in the first place, introduce them to his constituency, with which many people in England were only partly acquainted. Since the 20th of July, when British Columbia became formally confederated, the Dominion of Canada comprised six Provinces, viz., Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and the newly-created one—thus stretching their vast area across the American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and comprising a larger extent of territory than the United States of America by about 120,000 square miles. To the happy dwellers on this tight little island this might seem of small account, but over the water, where there was a tendency to value things by size, it was a noticeable fact. Of the six Provinces of the Dominion, two, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with the islands of Prince Edward and Newfoundland, not yet confederated, were comprised in the Conference of Eastern British America, where there were no fewer than 160 faithful labourers, with some 15,000 members in their fellowship. Of the other Provinces in the Dominion—Manitoba and British Columbia, distant, newly confederated, and thinly populated; Quebec, where the vast majority of the people were Roman Catholics and French Canadians; and Ontario, where the United Empire Loyalists took root and grew, also where English, Scotch, and Irish Protestant settlers generally established themselves—constituted the Canadian Conference which he was now called upon to represent.

The diocese over which he was called upon to preside, for his work was episcopal, if his name was not—was 1,500 miles long by some 200 to 300 miles wide, exclusive of the missionary districts; and it contained within it a population of nearly three millions, or something less than the present population of London. There was something cosmopolitan in the Dominion, both as to its nationality, and as to the creeds of its people. They still took, he was glad to find, a warm interest in the affairs of Irish Methodism, and were prepared gladly to listen to the warm-hearted and eloquent representatives from the