

ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST
CHURCH IN IRELAND TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—

We gladly embrace the opportunity which, in the providence of God, now occurs, of opening fraternal communication with you as one of the sister Churches of Methodism, and we greet you affectionately, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Large numbers of the people of this country have sought and found a home in the Dominion of Canada, and it is to us a cause of much thankfulness that the members of our Church especially who have been removed from us by emigration have found, with you, Christian ordinances and means of grace similar to those to which they had been accustomed and which they highly prized.

We have frequently observed, with much pleasure and satisfaction, the evidences of your growing prosperity and extending usefulness. We regard with great interest your missionary operations, not only among the Indian tribes but also among the people of Japan; and we pray that the Lord of the harvest may reward your labors, in these and other fields of Christian enterprise, with abundant fruit.

We offer you our sincere and hearty congratulations on the union recently effected of the four sections of the Methodist family, which now constitute the Methodist Church of Canada; and we rejoice to learn, from the address of your last General Conference to the British Conference, that "the fruits of that blessed union were becoming more and more developed; that the Lord of Peace had given you harmony, tranquility and prosperity within your borders, and that not a discordant note was heard throughout the consolidated Methodism of the Dominion." May the peace of God continue to abide with you!

May we remind you that twelve years ago the two principal Methodist bodies in this country were happily united, and now constitute the Methodist Church of Ireland. We have every reason to believe that this union was sanctioned by the great Head of the Church; and that Methodism in Ireland was thus better adapted to fulfil its arduous and important mission. In the prosecution of our work we have to contend with many difficulties; but the God who was with our fathers is with us also, and the fruit of our toil is to be found in many lands, as well as at home. It is our solemn purpose to continue to labor earnestly in the sphere assigned to us by the providence of God, trusting that He, upon whose shoulders is the government, will cause even those things which now appear to be adverse to turn out for the furtherance of His Gospel throughout our native land.

We have appointed as our Representative to your Conference the Rev. Wallace McMullen, D.D., who has also been appointed to the like office by the British Conference. We have reason to believe that he is