

## PASTORAL ADDRESS.

DEARLY BELOVED,—Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied to both you and yours. The Conference this year in Bowmanville was one of much mutual edification and spiritual profit. While the most zealous scrutiny entered into every detail of the numerous interests of the Church, and the freest expression of opinion exercised, the kindest spirit prevailed and nothing occurred to interrupt the good understanding we believe to exist among the laity and ministers within the bounds of the Conference. The numerical increase, after making up all losses by deaths and removals, is 485. While it is a matter of gratitude to Almighty God that we have not to report a decrease, yet the smallness of the increase should lead to much searching of heart and grave questionings as to whether the time has not come for a general presentation of ourselves to renewed consecration and mighty wrestling in prayer in order to bring again a wave of salvation over these lands.

The General Missionary and Woman's Auxiliary reports show encouraging increases, and indicate the steady growth of the missionary spirit throughout the connexion.

Our Sunday Schools and young people's societies we regard as among the most helpful agencies in the Church, and would affectionately recommend that every effort be put forth to commit all our children and youth at the earliest moment to Christ and association in class-meeting in some form, so as to be kept from drifting into the great ungodliness all about us.

The Superannuation Fund we find to be more and more commending itself to the judgment and generosity of our people. Those who have come to understand its constitution and workings have the most confidence in its management and sympathy with its claims. From time to time our noble laymen are leaving legacies in their wills to increase the invested capital, the interest of which goes to pay the necessities of the annuitants. The Book Room has increased its annual grant this year to \$9,000. Our aged ministers are disappearing from service here. Let us cheer their fleeting moments at the eventide.

The publishing interests, which are giving such handsome profits to the connexion year by year, and which command the attention and support of the community beyond the bounds of the denomination, deserve the support of every loyal Methodist. The *Christian Guardian*, *Magazine*, Sunday School and young people's periodicals are, by common consent, for richness, purity, variety, adaptation and reasonable cheapness, unsurpassed in the language.

Our Educational Society is vigorously to the front. The age is calling loudly for an intelligent, up-to-date and well-equipped ministry, and one of the remarkable characteristics of recent years is that our colleges are not only schools furnishing every facility for higher education, but have been centres of strong spiritual power and pure morality, and one where scores of our youth are being turned into the channel of a decided Christian life.