

PASTORAL ADDRESS

#To the Members of the Primitive Methodist Church in Canada.

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD,

The Ministers and Official Laymen composing the 17th Annual Conference of our Church, which held its Session in Alice Street Church, Toronto, send to you their united Christian greeting.

It affords us great joy to tell you, that the general character of the services held in connection with the Conference,—the importance of the measures which were brought forward for deliberation, and adopted,—indicate the growth of intelligence, and the enlargement of liberal principles amongst us, as a section of the Church of Christ.

Some questions arose, which from their peculiar character gave rise to occasional irritation, and the expression of very great diversity of opinion ; but were ultimately determined with unanimity, in the spirit of mutual concord.

The education required by young men, previous to their entering our Ministry,—the improvement of those on probation,—and the means at our disposal to render some assistance in the attainment of such an education, were freely discussed ; and a method was adopted, thought to be suitable to our requirements, and within easy reach of our connexional ability, so as to render it practical and satisfactory.

Other questions, aiming at sudden, great, organic changes in the polity and relations of the body, passed under review, and were debated at considerable length, which elicited sufficient conservative opposition to show that the ship possesses a goodly proportion of ballast to her spread of canvas.

A review of the Reports testified that divine providence has favored the Church during the past year with a gratifying measure of prosperity, so that our numerical and financial condition is steadily advancing.

We have reason to be encouraged, dear brethren, in entering upon another ecclesiastical year. All the intimations of the will of God urge us to give the *full vigor* of our hearts' devotion to the propagation of the glorious gospel.