

Annual Address.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA.

To the Members of the Church in connexion therewith:

BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN THE LORD: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue; whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." II. PETER, i. 2-7.

BELOVED,—addressing you at this time, we cannot refrain from adverting to the last annual words so ably written to you by the very gifted the Rev. S. Antliff, D. D. Words of flame, giving light and heat, followed by great fruitfulness in the lives and conversation of our ministers and people, which have been read and reread and will still be perused with delight by our societies. Its fullness and strength almost deter us from the discharge of our present duty. The year closing with this Conference has been one of toil, struggle, labour and perseverance, thanks to our Heavenly Father, not in vain. Your agents have had to contend with the general depression of commerce and labour, producing a common migratory disposition, hence the continual removals and the unsettling of a great many of our loved ones who have gone beyond our sphere of action; also many whom God hath called to the upper fold, materially thinning our ranks, nevertheless we are able to report a net increase of 364 members to our church fellowship. Not unto us but to God be the praise and glory. We rejoice that there are no marks of decay nor of stunting, but of life, vigour, activity and growth. The funds of the connection show a healthy increase. Quite a large number of churches and parsonages have been built, and the ministers in general well sustained. Our twenty-second Annual Conference, held at Guelph, was perhaps the best (taken