

## PASTORAL ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Assembled in our Annual Conference, enjoying the privilege of association with each other, after the labours and discouragements of another year, and favoured with the conscious presence of the Holy Spirit, our thoughts and sympathies turn toward you, the flock over whom the Chief Shepherd hath made us overseers. "Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ." As you are aware, we are met together for the purpose of reviewing the work of the past year, and devising such plans as will enable us to prosecute that work more successfully during the year upon which we are now entering. The task before us is not an easy one, but in its accomplishment we rejoice that we have for the first time the sympathy and help of the lay brethren whom you have sent to join in our deliberations. We therefore gratefully acknowledge the hand of God in directing the union movement to a successful issue. God in His good providence has thus led us on to this point, so that, as a Church, we may be prepared to meet the demands of the present and the requirements of the future in this great North-West land.

Then, in Conference assembled, and with the presence of the great Head of the Church, we are reminded of our duty to read again our *marching orders*. Our Captain calls to us: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." We are reminded, too, of our duty to renew our inspiration in this campaign by catching the spirit of heroism from the great Apostle to the Gentiles, who, with Divine authority, calls back to us: "If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his." We learn what that means from the Son of Man, who declared that He "came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and give His life a ransom for many."

Now, dear brethren, suffer us to lay before you a few thoughts in relation to the great duties that lie before us as a Church, in this new land, at this hour.

We commend to your hearty sympathy and support the missionary work of the Church. Let us first weigh well the argument of Paul, who realizes that the world needs Christ, and says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How, then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" Brethren, it is ours to study events, that we may see the hand of God therein, and learn whither He would have us go and what He would have us do. We honour God as much by trusting His providence as by trusting His words. We have been praying Him that He would unite and rally the forces of Methodism,