

the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Our Church was never more peaceful or more thoroughly consolidated than it is to-day. Never was there a better understanding, or a more cordial sympathy between pastors and people, or a greater readiness to co-operate with one another, in labouring in their several spheres, for the accomplishment of the great work which our divine Master has appointed his Church to perform. In this we gratefully recognize the fruit of His grace, who is the Prince of peace, whose precious legacy to his Church is peace, and the effect of whose reign is the reconciliation of all things, whether they be in heaven or on earth, the extirpation of all the elements of discord, and the establishment of harmony among all the creatures of God.

We rejoice not only in the prevalence of peace, but in the presence of a good degree of prosperity. Owing to the depressed state of our leading industries, by which large numbers of those under our charge have been thrown out of remunerative employment, there has been a considerable migration of our people, so that our societies have suffered almost continual depletion from removals, as well as from other inevitable causes which are always at work; and yet, we are thankful to be able to announce that there has been a net increase of between five and six hundred in the membership of our Church within the bounds of the Conference during the year which has just closed. We are not satisfied, it is true, with this result of the labours of the year; on the contrary, it is matter of deep humiliation before God, and of serious searchings of heart among us that more has not been accomplished; and we hope that by a renewed and fuller consecration of ourselves, both ministers and people, and by the more copious effusion of the Spirit realized in answer to the prayer of faith, we may be enabled to achieve grander results in the coming year than have been achieved in the year that is past; but, we nevertheless feel that when all the circumstances are taken into the account, in view of the multifarious opposition and discouragement which has been encountered, the measure of success which has been vouchsafed