

Mr. Willson knew as early as 1814 that he was disliked by the Family Compact, and that some even planned to have him sent from Canada. He accordingly published a document deprecating such action. It was headed: "Address to thy Crown, O England, and thy great name. I write as follows to all the inhabitants thereof." In the course of it he says: "After I have written, I will leave God to judge between you and me; and also to make judges of you, whether you will receive my ministry in your land in peace, yea or nay. . . . Ye are great indeed. I cannot help that, neither do I want to; but I am willing ye should remain great in the sight of God, although I am but small therein, in the things thereof. Now choose whether I should or might be your servant in these things, yea or nay. As I think, it would be a shame for a minister to be banished from your nation for preaching the gospel of peace therein. I am a man," he continues, "under the visitation of God's power in your land; and many scandalous reports are in circulation against me. The intent of the spirit of the thing is to put me to flight from your dominions, or that I should be imprisoned therein. For which cause I, as a dutiful subject, make myself known hereby unto you of great estate in the world, lest your minds should be affected and stirred up against me without a cause by your inferiors, who seek to do evil to the works of God, whenever the Almighty is trying to do you good."

In some verses of the same date as this address to the Home authorities, viz., 1815, he refers to the peril he supposed himself to be in:

"The powers of hell are now combined—
With war against me rage;
But in my God my soul's resigned—
The rock of every age.

"If God doth give what I receive,
The same is due to thee;
And thou in spirit must believe.
In gospel liberty.

"It's also mine, by George our King,
The ruler of my day;
And yet if I dishonour bring
Cut short my feeble stay."

After a long and remarkably efficient leadership, during which he made a deep impression on North York, and was instrumental in founding schools for children, and for young