

Another evil of the present times, is a tendency on the part of Christians to an undue intimacy with the world. We fear that the association of believers with the ungodly in social assemblies, is becoming unhappily more common and frequent than is conducive to the spiritual improvement of the one, or the salvation of the other. "Be ye separate from the world," is the Divine command. The neglect of this admonitory caution brings a snare. The world must be pleased, and the society of Christians rendered acceptable by a careful avoidance of such conversation as is distasteful to an unrenewed nature. This leads to the cultivation of false taste, the singing of such songs, and the adoption of other modes of social amusement which do not minister to godliness. Beware of the chilling and deadening influence of these associations. Abstain from the appearance of evil; and by the exhibition of a holy, self-denying zeal, and cheerful piety, seek to be the lights of the world, and the salt of the earth. The last census of this Province furnishes a most significant answer to the question, what hath God wrought through the instrumentality of Methodism? having obtained the first place in the number of its adherents, amongst the Protestant Churches of Canada. Let the success of the past incite to more earnest efforts, that God, even our God, may bless us, and make us a thousand times as many as we are.

The review of the past year furnishes reasons both for humiliation and gratitude. Souls have been saved and the returns from the various Circuits and Missions show a nett increase in our membership of 841. The various connexional funds have received an increasingly liberal support. We have peace in our borders.

Our annual Conference has been one of unusual interest. We are more than ever determined to deal faithfully with each other, and to aim at the attainment of that "agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there shall be no place left amongst us, either for error in religion, or viciousness in life." I beseech you, dear brethren, unite with us in our prayers to God for each other and for yourselves, that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may abound in all riches unto the full assurance of faith. To this end be diligent in the use of all the means provided for your edification and spiritual quickening.

During the past year one of our aged ministers has passed away to his reward, and died in the full triumphs of the faith he had long preached to others.

And now, brethren, we exhort you to renewed earnestness, in seeking whosoever is pure, and lovely, and of good report; and by the cordial welcome of those who are sent to you in the name of the Lord, and by a faithful co-operation with them in all the enterprises of our church, seek to perform your part in building the temple of the Lord; that when the cornerstone is brought forth, we may together join with the multitude of the redeemed, in shouting grace, grace unto it."

ENOCH WOOD, D. D., *President.*

WILLIAM SCOTT, *Secretary.*

Belleville, June 13, 1862.