

source of nine-tenths of the crimes which destroy individuals, beggar families, afflict society and impair the energies and resources of private and public comfort and wealth.

(6.) Nor has the General Conference omitted to devise and suggest means and measures for advancing the important and already rapidly progressing work of Church accommodation, and providing for the more efficient support of the ministry.—In this latter scriptural and noble work the laymen of the General Conference took the most conspicuous part; and if the spirit which they evinced is imbibed and cultivated by the members of our Church and congregations at large, an essential means of promoting both the comfort and efficiency of your Ministers will be secured beyond all precedent.

10. I have devoted but brief paragraphs to subjects, on each of which my convictions and feelings would prompt me to write an essay, did the occasion permit. I earnestly commend these subjects to your serious, prayerful and generous consideration, aided by reading the new Book of Discipline itself, and by what may be uttered from the pulpit and the platform, and sent forth in the columns of our periodicals.

11. I feel how poorly I have fulfilled the task imposed upon me by the General Conference, in thus addressing you; but I cannot forbear repeating the thought already expressed,—namely, the necessity, apart from the privilege of the daily culture and practice of vital religion, the Samson-look of individual and Church strength, the perennial spring of the highest enjoyment, from which flow ever widening streams of pious benevolence and useful activity, and without which all the externals of Christianity, however imposing and magnificent, and however adorned and enriched by wealth, talents and gifts, are but “sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”

12. Very dear Brethren,—Unexpectedly called to a position so much above my merits, and required thus to address you, I desire gratefully to confess that “by the Grace of God I am what I am”—a sinner saved by grace—saved in youth, saved in manhood, being saved in old age; and being in the fiftieth year of my Ministry, beyond my “three score years and ten,” sixty of which save one, I have been enabled to witness, imperfectly indeed, a pardoning God and Saviour, I here record the avowal of my present views and feelings, that had I, a thousand times from my early youth up, to live my life over again, I would with all my heart and strength, strive to serve my God and Saviour more humbly, more faithfully and more unreservedly than I have done. The indwelling of God in the heart is the most radiant joy of youth, the mightiest strength of manhood in both body and mind, the richest comfort of age; it prompts to labour, lightens toil, sweetens affliction, kisses the rod of disappointment and adversity, gives songs in the night of age and