

ADDRESS TO THE ENGLISH CONFERENCE.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—After the lapse of another year of arduous toil, with its responsibilities, hopes, fears, and triumphs, we are met together in our Annual Conference, and avail ourselves of the opportunity of sending you our most fraternal greetings. It affords us no small pleasure to know, that while we assure you of our undiminished regard, and sincere love, that you fully reciprocate our affection, and though separated by the rolling deep, we are not only one in name, but one in faith, in purpose, and in heart. Set as we are for the defence of the Gospel, and having our lot cast in a period of the Church's history, when not only the outworks are most vigorously assailed, but when the most persistent efforts are put forth to overthrow the foundation and demolish the whole superstructure of Christianity; and when men are found, not only without but even within the pale of the visible Church of God, who boldly question the inspiration of the Bible, deny the Lord that bought them, and labor to bring into discredit the great fundamental doctrines of the Gospel; it is imperatively required of us that we nobly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, and by our united, prayerful, and self-sacrificing devotion to the truth, seek its permanent establishment and glorious triumph in every land. We are conscious, (and every year presses it more fully upon our consideration), that our position in this ever extending, and important colonial possession of the British Crown, is a very high and responsible one. By the late action of our Legislature, we may regard our Dominion as now extending from the shores of the broad Atlantic, to those of the broader Pacific; embracing territory larger than the whole of Europe, and presenting a field for emigration, and missionary enterprise which has few equals, and no superior. We have much to do in forming the character, moulding the principles, and controlling the actions of our people. Nor has the Church in Canada failed to exert her influence for good in this respect. So nobly has she battled for civil and religious liberty, so interested has she been in providing for the education of our land, so energetically has she prosecuted her missionary operations, and so largely have these been owned of God, that we believe no people are more generally educated, stand higher in point of morality, or have a truer regard for spiritual things, than those who reside within the bounds of our Conference. And yet, with our yearly influx of immigrants, the continual opening up of new sections of the Dominion for settlement, and the removal of many of the children of our members and others, into them, there is a continual application for missionaries, and a constant necessity for missionary operations.

The superiority of the voluntary over the compulsory mode of sustaining religious institutions, has been demonstrated in