

THE

PASTORAL ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE,

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST
CHURCH IN EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

The desiderated formation of an *Eastern British American Conference*, no longer an object of anticipation, is now an important fact. All our Societies within the territorial limits of the new organization, which have hitherto existed as dependent and isolated districts, under the management and direction of the *Wesleyan Missionary Society*, are thus constituted a distinct Connexion, or church, having received from the Parent Body, a formal investiture of the attributes and privileges appropriate to the ecclesiastical position which we are now called to sustain in an affiliated relation to the English Conference.

At a juncture in the history of Methodism in these Colonies, so replete with interest, our minds naturally revert to the obscure origin of the work, which by the unequivocal tokens of Divine favor has now attained such magnitude and maturity; and whilst we mark its early struggles and steady progress,—its unassuming pretensions, yet irrepressible and expansive energies, we cannot but recognize in the abundant proofs of its spiritual vitality and power, the distinctive characteristics of *Christianity in earnest*.

Little did the sainted WILLIAM BLACK, whose memory is redolent of a thousand precious associations, when, in the Summer of 1780, he began in the County of Cumberland, in this Province, with many tears, to beseech sinners

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