

many charges, considered independently of all others, might have been more efficiently provided for than is possible in a great connexion where the claims of each minister, and of each church, must be considered in some degree, at least, in competition with the claims of every other.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, both ministers and people cherish the itinerancy; and we are convinced that as strong a bond of affection subsists between the clerical and the lay elements of our Church as in any other communion. For this we are devoutly grateful to God; and in the hope that the same happy relations may ever abide, we commend the pastors who this year are going to new charges, to the sympathy and affection of their people. Receive them in the name of the Lord, and they will prove to you ministers of good, notwithstanding any feeling of uncertainty that may sometimes be felt as to the suitableness of their appointment.

Though there has been no unseemly complaint, yet the hardships and privations of many of your ministers have been ample to justify their claim as genuine successors of the venerated founders of Methodism in America. In respect to inadequate support, long and sometimes perilous journeys, and exposures to the rigors of a severe climate, the heroic days of Methodism can furnish nothing grander than not a few facts in our history within this Conference during the past year. But we are not unmindful that many of you are also enduring privations equally severe in the new homes you are creating. You have shared your best with your ministers. They have gladly carried to you the message of the blessed Jesus, and have felt honoured of God in being partners for his sake with you in the hardships of your lot. Nor will they ever feel that it is too much for them to endure even as you endure. But in many parts of our wide territory there is a rapid advance toward a better condition of things. A few places will this year rise above a condition of dependence upon the Missionary Society. Every charge should look forward to this end, and labour for its attainment, as Providence favours with increasing worldly prosperity. You may be sure that there is no want of sympathy with the mission work in this country on the part of those in the east who liberally support the operations of the Missionary Society. The feeling still prevails there that money given to the support of missions here is a good investment in every light in which it may be viewed. If the grants made by the Society have been too small, it is not because anyone desires to cramp the work here; but the field over which the Society's operations are extended is a vast one. Under the pressure of our own wants we are in danger of forgetting the wants of others. In some parts of the east the claims of poverty cry as loudly as is possible in any part of our own territory. In

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