

costal time. From the stormy banks of Newfoundland to the flowery vales of far Vancouver, a blessed tide of saving power has swept along, and hundreds, once dead in trespasses and sins, have realized that Christ, whom we preach, is able to save to the uttermost. The aggregate increase for the London Conference alone is 3,457. While devoutly thankful for these seasons of refreshing, let us labor for still greater things. Why should the work cease? It need not—it will not if the thousands of our Israel come up “to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” Beware of lukewarmness. Remember the Church of Laodicea. Indifference is the freezing-point of Christian life.

To keep up our life and growth as a Church we must also shun that fashionable but deadly enemy, formalism. It is the dry rot of the Christian Church. It is as heartless as it is powerless. It neither honors God nor helps man, but profanes the one and destroys the other. If we mean to go up and possess the land, we must keep this traitor out of our camp. What possibilities lie before us in the work of the world’s evangelization! The mission we hold as a Church demands that we labor till the possible becomes the actual. Our responsibilities are measured by our opportunities. We must be faithful in the matter of saving souls, or share the fate of the barren fig-tree. Blessed is the Church whose quiver is full of spiritual children, born in the travail of full consecration and holy endeavor. Supernatural vigor will throb through all her life; her eye shall not grow dim, nor her natural force abate. The religion that folds its arms and sinks into moods of repose is not the religion of Him who said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” If our Christianity is not aggressive, it is not the Christianity of the New Testament. A sanctified enthusiasm in winning souls for Christ is the crying need of Christendom to-day. Were the manifold energies of the Church militant focalized on this grand work, its growth would transcend our most sanguine conceptions. The little one would become a thousand, the small one a strong nation; the wilderness and the solitary place would rejoice and blossom as the rose.

The present year is an epoch in our history. It marks the beginning of a new era. May it be the brightest and best we have ever known! The organic unification of Methodism in this land, so long looked for, hoped for, prayed for, is now an accomplished fact.

Standing as we are to-day on the threshold of a new era, we earnestly ask your prayers to rest upon the tents of our united Methodism. One in heart, one in doctrine, and now one in ecclesiastical polity, let us strive to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Seek to have your souls filled with the spirit and love of Christ. Set before yourselves a high moral purpose—a purpose that will enlarge your sympathies on the one hand and