

we accordingly are now assembled in the Township of South-wold.

It affords us unfeigned pleasure, to be able to congratulate you, Dear Brethren, on the continued favour of Almighty God, so manifest in his Providential dealings with us as a people, and in the effusions of His Grace upon our assemblies, and societies. We may here indeed set up our Ebenezer, and say, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us"—From a weak and scattered remnant, but a few years since, we have become a strong people—now forming two bands.—All glory be to God above.

The labours of the past year, within the bounds of our Conference, have not resulted so much in the accession of members, as in increased stability of mind, and maturity of Christian character, among the members of our Church; and every judicious person will attach more importance to the latter than the former, however desirable it may justly be to see our "*borders enlarged*," as well as our *stakes strengthened*.

By reference to our Minutes, you will observe that the number of our members, within the bounds of this Conference, is 4,832.

The Financial condition of our circuits, though far from being what we desire to see it, and what it doubtless will become under an improved system, is yet not discouraging: Several of your Ministers, have, indeed, laboured hard, and endured heavy privations with their families, and sore trials of mind, for want of a competent support; yet, they are determined to persevere in hope of better times; being persuaded, that as the people become better acquainted with their *just* claims, they will be the more ready to meet them.

The permanency and usefulness of the Itinerancy depends in a great measure, on a just and competent support for themselves and families being provided; and as your ministers have no other resource than the voluntary contributions of their friends for their support, (nor would they avail themselves of any other if they could,) it follows, as a consequence, that should you fail them, they would have to desist and turn their attention to means of providing for themselves and those dependant on them.—But they are "*persuaded better things of you, Brethren*," though