

## ADDRESS TO THE SOCIETIES.

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DEAR FRIENDS:—

For the first time, as a Canadian Conference, we venture to address to you a few words of exhortation, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your interest is ours—"We live if you stand fast." We can rejoice in your temporal prosperity; we by no means envy your increasing comforts in this world, but our chief concern is for your spiritual and eternal welfare. Time is on the wing—*Eternity* is near; what we do must be done quickly. We have a great work to do. It is not only true that every man must give an account of himself to God, but also is held responsible, to a great extent, for the salvation of his fallen brothers and sisters in Adam. God may say at length to us, as to guilty Cain, "Where is thy brother Abel?" We hope, dear friends, that you, with us, may at last be able to adopt the language of the Apostle Paul—"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," &c.

We are happy to inform you that God has been pleased to bless our efforts in the past year in the conversion of sinners from the error of their ways, and in adding to our ranks above 400 souls, though in consequence of removals, deaths, and other causes, the increase is only 205. But still the conviction forces itself upon us, that, as a section of the Church of Christ, we have not done what we might, had we been more holy and devoted to our Master's cause. God once said to his people, "Ye are gone away from my ordinances." We are not without fear that the above quotation is too applicable to many among us. In many of our Churches the Class-books tell a melancholy tale. Our weekly prayer meetings, too, are wofully slighted by many. Are not these means of grace as valuable as ever? Are they not as necessary as ever to our growth in grace? Can our spiritual life be maintained without them? If not, why then are they so neglected? It is no marvel if we have but little of the Divine influence, and, as a consequence, few conversions, if we live in the neglect of those means and duties which the Lord has made essential to our progress.

Again, we fear that some are too much engaged about the things of this life; "careful and troubled about many things;" having too much business, more than is necessary for time, or profitable for *Eternity*. Let the important interrogation of the Lord of life and glory, be pressed home to the heart, "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and

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