

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE OF  
THE METHODIST CHURCH, TO THE CHURCHES  
UNDER ITS CARE.

Assembled in our Annual Conference, our thoughts naturally turn towards our people, whose servants we are, in the bonds of love and truth in Jesus Christ our Lord, and whose best interests we delight to subserve. We hope that the sending forth of our annual pastoral may be more than a mere form on our part, and receive more than a cursory glance from you.

We assure the membership over whom the Master of the vineyard has appointed us as overseers, that we seek the good of the vineyard, and that its growth, vigor, and fruitfulness are to us matters of the vastest moment.

We would deplore the entrance among our people of any suspicions of unfaithfulness and self-seeking, or personal opposition, on the part of the ministry, and we invite you to join us in hearty, hopeful, trustful co-operation in carrying on the Master's work. Without such helpful co-operation, the ties which bind us together will be but as ropes of sand. We are called to be laborers together with God. Christ says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." The measure of our consecration and faith is the measure of our power. There is an intimate relationship between being and doing. We must be Christlike to do Christ's work. Let us give ourselves to service in a renewal of our consecration to God, and plead His promises until we can say, "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me."

We join you in thanksgiving to God for the spirit of revival that has pervaded the Church. Many fields have borne abundant fruit. While sickness and unfavorable conditions have greatly hindered special services, we are encouraged by a net gain, over all losses by death and other causes, of 552 souls. These gracious results have been realized, not so much through special evangelists as by the hearty co-operation of ministerial brethren and the development of the working power of the Church.

We hail with delight the advent of the Epworth League, and expect from its inauguration the most desirable results. As in the best forms of family life we have the presence of all ages, from helpless infancy up to the man whose locks have been whitened by the snow of fourscore winters, so in our Churches we want all ages, grades, varieties, and shades of experience constantly blending, and would deprecate any tendency to extremeness, that would isolate the League from its place in the ordinary and regular work of the Church.

While we advocate the utmost freshness, vigor, and warmth on the part of the pulpit, we would advise, on behalf of the pew, a strong desire to keep close to the old landmarks and to avoid the tendency, seen in