

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS

OF THE

MANITOBA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

TO THE

CONGREGATIONS UNDER ITS CARE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

Assembled once more in our Annual Conference, we who have been called to the office and work of the ministry among you greet you in the name of the Lord, and earnestly invoke on you a continuance of that special mercy of our heavenly Father, which shall build you up in faith and knowledge, and make you to abound in all wisdom and righteousness. While praying for these blessings on your behalf, we desire on our own to make this a season of searchings of heart and of solemn renewal of the full consecration of our own selves to the Lord, feeling deeply that we cannot expect you, who are ministered unto, to reach any higher experience in holiness than we, who minister unto you, have attained.

When we assembled last year peaceful occupations were at a standstill in several parts of the country, and large bodies of our citizen soldiers were still under arms. Through the blessing of God tranquillity has returned to the land, and we are made glad by the presence among us to-day of beloved brethren who last year were detained at their homes by threatened danger, or were actively engaged in rendering needed and invaluable assistance to those who were seeking to repress armed resistance against lawful authority.

The past history of our Church is full of instruction. Its lessons are too fresh and impressive to be forgotten, and too numerous to be described. They are interwoven with our most sacred experiences; they touch the springs of our thoughts and feelings, and enter into our daily activities, while their influence affects our domestic, social and business relations not less than our inner and spiritual life. In reviewing them we gratefully acknowledge that the good hand of our God, which has been upon our fathers, has not forsaken us.

The remembrance of our history recalls the characteristic or essential features of real Methodism, which, we are thoroughly sat-