

But as we gird on the armor afresh for renewed assaults on the strongholds of Satan, we do so, not in the desperation of the forlorn hope, but with the inspiring conviction animating every heart and rising from the myriad voices of our beloved Israel, "The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge."

The *Evangelical Witness* prospers and is of great service to us as a herald of our progress, an exponent of our principles and a repository of Connexional news and revival intelligence.

Our Theological Institute, located at Toronto, under the Presidency of the Rev. W. McClure, though in its infancy, gives promise of much usefulness in future. During the past year there have been four occasional students under tuition, while the experience and ability of the venerable Tutor warrant the hope that if he be so circumstanced that he can devote the whole of his time to this important educational enterprise, the Institute will become of invaluable service to our Church.

Our beloved brethren, the Rev. J. H. Robinson, General Superintendent, and the Rev. W. McClure, Assistant Superintendent, enjoy as ever the affectionate esteem of our ministers and members.

And now, dear fathers and brethren, having told you of our affairs and hopes, we again bid you farewell. We are laboring in a common cause. We are bound together in holiest sympathy. We are identified in church fellowship. We are heirs together of the grace of God, and our prayer is that the incoming ecclesiastical year may be the most prosperous and glorious that our Connexion, at home and abroad, has ever experienced. The times in which we live are intensely exciting and pregnant with the most marvellous events. "There is thunder on the horizon as well as dawn." This continent in its immensity is heaving under a mighty political earthquake. All Europe is agitated. Jehovah is shaking the nations. Statesmen seem bewildered. Men's hearts fail them for fear; but the heavens do rule; and when these storms have passed, we shall learn that "God stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves and the tumults of the people."

Ominous as are the signs of the times politically, they are full of hope and promise spiritually. Never then was there a time which so imperatively demanded and abundantly rewarded the consecration of the full energies of the Church of Christ, and blessed be God she is rising from the dust, putting on her beautiful garments and preparing for the day of her visitation." May we be strengthened to do our duty and eventually share in the everlasting triumphs of the Saviour.

May the peace of God abide with you evermore. Amen.

J. H. ROBINSON, *President.*

JOHN HISTON, *Secretary.*

Conference held at London, C.W. 1861.

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