

ADDRESS

TO THE

ENGLISH CONFERENCE.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN.—

The flight of time hath brought us to another of our Annual Conferences. With advancing years some of us experience bodily infirmities, and are reminded, that whatsoever we find to do should be done with our might, as we, together with the multitude, are tending to the grave, where there is neither work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom. But such is the distinguishing excellence of christianity that it sheds light on the tomb, and gives hope in death. Many a dear christian friend is laid low. Several of the early ministers of our Connexion have rested from their toil, and some of us, on both sides of the great waters, have followed partners and children to the house appointed for all living. We, however, sorrow not without

“The hope, the blissful hope,
The hope through Jesus given;
The hope, when days and years are past,
We all shall meet in heaven.”

Yes, dear brethren, though laboring in a different part of the Lord's harvest-field, we feel your Master is our Master, and your home is our home; and not many years hence we hope to meet you, and many who have already departed, where the toil and infirmity of earth will give place to the rest and perfection of heaven.

The past year has been with us one of great financial difficulties. Some have suffered the want of the necessities of life; and not a few, who two or three years ago were reckoned wealthy, have been so cramped and hedged in with difficulties as to be unable to surmount their embarrassments. So uncertain are earthly possessions. This change in circumstances, while it operated as a test of integrity and Christian principle, was necessary, we believe, as a check to worldliness, pride, and extravagance; we therefore hope it will be overruled for good.

As many Christians, instead of receiving that the final depression; for, have been exhausted in every department, so little towards. But we are not of the wants of the, and felt, such wipe off the entire.

Another matter, preachers to spend such a large proportionally he of the brother you were glad to receive him to obtain his

The prosperity, expectations. Some influences from a but others have a crease is only two

The present Conference freely expressed and one or two complexity, yet a map of Zion, and christian assembly, and ended of Christian love, connexion, and that more prosperous