

PASTORAL ADDRESS,

PREPARED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE.

To the Members of the Primitive Methodist Churches in Canada West:

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD,—We, your Ministers and Representatives assembled in Conference for the transaction of business that concerns the welfare of our Church in this Province, beg to inform you in this our Annual Pastoral Address, that our love to you knows no abatement, and our interest in all that concerns the happiness of you and yours no decline. We assure you, with all the warmth of Christian and brotherly affection, that during our various sittings we have studied your best interests, and have carefully, and prayerfully, as those “that must give account to God,” made those appointments, and adopted those plans and regulations that we, in our collective wisdom, deem best fitted to promote your present and eternal well-being, and the prosperity of our community.

No doubt it will afford you much pleasure to be made acquainted with the following particulars:

1st.—Our Session has been one of great peace and harmony,—

“All were of one heart and soul,
And only love inspired the whole.”

2nd.—The Ministers of other Churches in Toronto showed us no little kindness, by inviting our Ministers to supply their pulpits on the Conference Sabbath. Hence, some of our brethren occupied the pulpits in Chapels belonging to the Wesleyan, Methodist New Connexion, and Congregational bodies, in the city and its suburbs. We esteem this as a mark of true Christian friendship, and are led to say, “Behold, how good and how pleasant a thing it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.” Jesus saith, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

3rd.—All the religious services in connection with the Conference were of a highly interesting and edifying character, and attended with a very gracious influence; but none more so than the Ordination service, when seven of your Ministers, who had honorably completed their probation, came forward before the public congregation and gave a brief yet clear account of their conversion and call to the Ministry, when solemn and fervent prayer was offered up to Almighty God in their behalf by the senior Ministers,

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