

Annual Address.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE CANADIAN PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONFERENCE TO THE SOCIETIES UNDER ITS CARE.

"Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God our Father; knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in prayer, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance."

BELOVED,—Since we last addressed you in our pastoral letter, another year has rolled its round, and produced its usual wear and tear in human and Church life. A number of our members have been removed from our militant ranks, and have gone to join the Church of the first-born who have passed to the land of peace beyond the flood.

In many of your households death has made a fearful blank. Your dear departed ones are not lost, they are only gone before, and will wait your arrival on the banks of the land of life. Two of our ministerial brethren have crossed the frontier of time, and passed to their heavenly home. Father's Ryder and Cheetham, who each in his own sphere rendered good service to the Church, and are now joining in the song of the redeemed before the throne. Beside these removed by death, many have thought it needful to change their residence; and some have located in sections of country in which we have no churches, and thus have ceased to be counted among us. But they are not all lost to Christ's Church; many have joined some other section of that Church, and still cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart. May the Father of Spirits abundantly bless them.

It is a matter for unfeigned thankfulness to the great Head of the Church that he has blessed us with marked success in the salvation of sinners, resulting in the grand net increase of *three hundred and eighty-four* precious souls. This augurs an important condition of spiritual life in our midst, which no doubt did much to create

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