

PASTORAL ADDRESS
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF
THE MONTREAL CONFERENCE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”

The return of our Annual Conference, held this year in the city of Kingston, affords us the privilege of again addressing you with words of congratulation and exhortation. You will rejoice to learn that the past year has been one of prosperity, both spiritually and financially. The statistical report shows a net increase in our membership of 2,559, and the various Connexional funds show considerable advance. There is peace within the borders of our stations, and the spiritual life of many of our members we believe to be deepening; and an expectancy of richer blessing characterizes not a few of our people. For these things we render thanks to Almighty God.

As you will be aware, the second General Conference of our beloved Church met in Toronto last September, when a number of alterations were made in our discipline. Amongst these we would specially call attention to the new regulations concerning the Children's Fund. The effect of these changes will be, in many cases, to reduce the income of the ministers, and we hope that in any cases where the reduction of income is likely to cause inconvenience, if not even distress, in the households of your pastors, there may be such arrangements made by your liberality that the lack of the amount heretofore received from the Children's Fund may be generously provided for. “Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

Another subject which excited a very exhaustive discussion in the General Conference was that of College Federation. The Conference expressed “its approval of Victoria University uniting with our Provincial University, on the line indicated in the plan of Federation prepared by the representatives of the different colleges; and further authorized and instructed the Board of Regents to complete, on behalf of Victoria, any necessary details of the basis of union, and to take proper steps to give effect to such Federation at as early a period as due regard to existing interests and to the necessary financial and other arrangements shall render it practicable.”