

THE PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE TO THE CHURCHES
UNDER ITS CARE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHERN,—Assembled once again in our Annual Conference, our thoughts turn to you with prayerful and affectionate solicitude. Our temporary separation seems to enhance the strength and tenderness of the bond which unites us as pastors and people. You are ever in our hearts, but never more so than when we meet in council to review the labors of another year, and lay again our plans for a fresh assault upon the kingdom of darkness. It was with a becoming sense of responsibility that we entered on our duties, but this would have been much more oppressive had we not felt that we had your sympathy and prayers. Throughout our sessions we have been consciously under the guiding hand of our Divine Founder and perpetual President—the Lord Jesus Christ.

The devotional exercises have been times of refreshing, while the business has been transacted with efficiency and despatch.

The review of the year, as furnished by the district returns, awakens gratitude to Almighty God. We have not labored in vain nor spent our strength for naught.

On the other hand there is enough to remind us of our short-comings, and to humble us before God. We mourn that our success is not greater. With so many workers in the vineyard, and with all our resources and opportunities, we might reasonably look for greater results. We, your ministers, are willing to bear our own share of responsibility for this partial failure. We are all agreed that the divinely elected agency for the salvation of men is the preaching of the Word; at the same time you will bear with us while we remind you that success in preaching does not altogether depend on those who preach, even when they preach "in demonstration of the Spirit," but that success, to a very great extent, depends upon the kind of hearing the Word preached receives. "He that hath ears to hear let him hear."

We bespeak anew for the institutions of our Church your intelligent and liberal support. And foremost among these is the great cause of missions. We have been a missionary people from the beginning. The missionary spirit has propagated the system called Methodism. Without this spirit we had ere this become an extinct people. Through grace we have listened lovingly and attentively to the farewell words of our ascending Head. We have felt that to us, as certainly as to those who saw Him go up, is entrusted the great commission conveyed in the words: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

"These words into our hearing fall
More deep than ocean's roar;
No lapse of time can drown their call,
They sound for evermore."

And because we have loved to carry out this last command He has never ceased to fulfil His good word to us: "Lo, I am with you alway." Feed then the holy fire of missionary zeal, for a decline of this spirit would mean a decline of life throughout all our organizations. Let it still be seen that we are a people zealous for the spreading of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Near to our hearts lies the weighty charge of the spiritual nurturing and guidance of the young. If, as we are told, there is committed to us in our