

THE
Conference Pastoral Address,
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, CANADA.

BELoved AND DEAR BRETHREN,—Grace and peace be multiplied unto you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. The “circling year” having assembled us once more in Conference, in the City of Hamilton, as your Ministers and Delegates, we affectionately present you with our Annual Pastoral Address. We propose to submit those matters which have occupied our deep and prayerful attention, in relation to *Past, Present, and Future*.

1. THE PAST. We rejoice to inform you that we met in the Spirit of Christian love; and throughout the entire Session that spirit continued unbroken; although, as might be expected, various subjects, which required earnest consideration, elicited different views and opinions. The Ministers' Meeting for “Mutual Improvement,” prior to Conference, was deeply interesting and devotional; and amid exciting subjects in discussion, in Conference, the hourly petitions offered to God were frequently attended with a hallowing influence from on high. The Religious Services in connection with the Conference were very satisfactory; and our Ministers occupied the pulpits of several Denominations in the City on the Sabbath. At our own Church, in John street, from the Sacramental Service, at seven a.m., until the closing service in the evening, the Lord was powerfully present, and several souls were converted to God.

In reference to Statistical affairs, we have, through the fluctuating nature of our Colonial population, suffered from removals. This cause retards the permanence and increase of our Society in this country, more than some other Bodies, whose operations are more extended; but we trust our gradual expansion will save us considerably from these heavy annual losses. We have lost 458 Members by removals and death; but these have been made up, and we report an increase of 137. Our Missionary income, from all sources

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