

We pray that in largest measure the blessings of Almighty God may rest upon Your Majesty; that you may long live to reign over a free, loving, and happy people in righteousness and truth; and that when you lay aside an earthly crown it may be to receive a crown of life which shall never fade away.

(SIGNED)

JAMES C. AIKINS.

JAMES FERRIER.

W. H. WITHROW.

REPLY OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL,
LORD LANSDOWNE, TO THE ADDRESS OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1883.

MR. PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH:

I thank you cordially for the manner in which you have availed yourselves of my accession to the office of Governor-General of the Dominion, in order to assure me of your devotion to Her Majesty, and to welcome us on our arrival in Canada. Your Address contains kindly references to myself, upon which I might be tempted to dwell. It is, however, as the representative of the Sovereign of these realms—and in that capacity only—that I am here to accept the expression of your loyalty and of your attachment to the political constitution under which you are living. Under that constitution maintenance of the supreme authority of the Crown has been found consistent with the concession of the largest measure of liberty to its subjects, and in the enjoyment of that liberty the important religious denomination which you represent has thriven, asking from the State nothing beyond permission to pursue without interference the task which it has set itself to perform.

I note with pleasure your statement that in the performance of that task you do not desire to isolate yourselves from the rest of your fellow-subjects, but that you are ready to co-operate with the other Christian Churches in the sacred and important work upon which you and they are engaged side by side.

In this country there is no official connection between Church and State, but the State has a right to claim you, and it does claim you, as a great force ranged on the side of law and order—a force engaged in the task of spreading knowledge and the fear of God

1886]

among it
itself in
mother-c

Under
relations
official re
ter, and I
character
Lansdown
stands by
in her na

ADDRES
BRIT

REVEREN

W
ference of
and regar
success in
engaged.
kingdom
the region
which ha
which we

The s
union of t
of the Do
which has
time had
prejudices
mon basis
unite. It
all the Ch
the same
the Christ
fiable grou
led to divi
ences and
opening u