

ministerial office; and we are solicitous to derive from them those practical lessons which they are calculated to teach. Whilst we feel bound in duty not to sacrifice to a factious and turbulent opposition the authority which we deem essential to the unfettered exercise of the functions of the pastoral office, we would regard its possession as imposing upon us strong obligations to diligence and fidelity in the work of the ministry; and we desire not to use this power as "lords over God's heritage," but as "stewards of the mysteries of Christ," to whom, for this, and every other talent, we must render a strict, a solemn account at the great day of Judgment. We give thanks to God that he has graciously disposed the hearts of our people at large to afford us their generous sympathy and zealous support in this day of trial and rebuke; and we believe there never was a period in our history when our people generally were more firmly united to their Ministers than they are at this time.

We are now brought to the close of a long and arduous session of Conference. God has been better than all our fears. Our deliberations and decisions have been marked by a harmony of views and a cordiality of affection never before surpassed, and rarely equalled. We are preparing to return to our respective spheres of labour with increased attachment to each other, with renewed zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of the souls of men; determined to maintain inviolate all the fundamental principles of Wesleyan Methodism, and to transmit to posterity, unimpaired, that sacred trust reposed in us by our Fathers in Christ, whose spirits are now with God. Upon his unchanging faithfulness we rely for defence, consolation and success, not doubting that he will cause the painful events which have happened unto us to "turn out to the furtherance of the Gospel." We shall ever retain for you, though far distant from us, an affectionate and prayerful remembrance. We regard you as children of the same family, members of the same Christian community, and subjects

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