

## ADDRESS

TO THE BISHOPS AND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

REVEREND FATHERS AND BRETHREN :

Your Address of 1856 was received and read by us with thankfulness and satisfaction, and the visit of your Representatives, the Reverend Dr. Raymond and the venerable William Hamilton, afforded us intense delight both by the ability and fervor of their ministrations, the urbanity and kindness of their social intercourse, and their highly interesting and encouraging statements relative to the work of God and the marvellous progress of the Methodist Episcopal Church in your great country.

We rejoice to have another opportunity to renew and perpetuate our intercourse with you, feeling that we are not less one with you in doctrine, discipline, fellowship, and purpose, than when we were under your parental jurisdiction. Since then, now 31 years, our Ministers have multiplied from 48 to 420, and the membership of our Church has increased from — to —, and our various financial interests, the number and convenience of our places of worship, our means and facilities of educational and literary culture have increased in like proportion. The spirit of revival is, as ever, the spirit of our Ministry and Church, and the thousands of sound conversions and holy experiences from year to year, are our witnesses that the doctrines preached by Wesley are still preached throughout our Church in the demonstration of the spirit and of power. We have been blest with numerous and extensive revivals of religion during the past year; our work among the Indian Tribes is still maintained with unabated efficiency and interest; our Collegiate Institution now numbers its students and pupils by hundreds, instead of by scores; the spirit of Missionary benevolence advances throughout our