

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS
OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH
TO THE
SOCIETIES WITHIN ITS BOUNDS.

DEARLY BELOVED,—Assembled in our Annual Conference after the toils and triumph of another year, we send you our greetings and counsels, trusting you may receive such as a renewed assurance of the unfeigned love which we cherish for your souls, and the earnest solicitude that you may abound yet more and more in the knowledge and love of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. Showers of blessings have been experienced on nearly all our Circuits and Missions, and we gratefully record to the honor and praise of Him whose we are and whom we serve, an increase of 449 to the membership of our Church during the past year. We are also glad to note an increase of \$784 in the Missionary contributions of the Church, as well as a very gratifying advance in all other Connexional Funds.

Death has entered our ranks since we last met in Conference Session, and the Rev. R. B. Hemlaw, a brother greatly beloved and highly esteemed for his work's sake, has passed to rest and reward. In the midst of our sorrow we cannot but rejoice in the contemplation of his faithful life, earnest toil, and peaceful death. To his sorrowing widow we extend our heart-felt sympathies. We are glad to learn that every department of our Sabbath-school work is in a prosperous condition, and heartily commend to your prayers and practical sympathy these nurseries of the Church. Our Sustentation Fund which we had hoped would have afforded material relief to some of our brethren laboring on domestic Mission fields has not fully met our expectations, and as a consequence, many of our ministers with their families still suffer serious financial embarrassment. We again commend this very important Fund to your Christian liberality.

In connection with our Missionary interests, we desire to call your attention to the noble work being done by the Woman's Missionary Society. During the past year these consecrated women have, by their self-sacrifice and devotion, added thousands of dollars to the missionary resources of the Church. At present, only one auxiliary, that of Victoria, exists within the bounds of the Conference. We strongly advise that wherever it is at all possible, auxiliaries be organized.

As a Church, we are strongly pledged to the cause of Temperance reform, and we earnestly desire that in this, as well as in all other move-