

May the same hallowed spirit be diffused throughout, and pervade the entire Connexion! May the spirit of wisdom, and of faith, and of power, and of love, be poured upon all the assemblies of the church throughout the length and breadth of the land; and may this the CENTENARY YEAR OF METHODISM be, in Canada and in all the world, a year of unprecedented purity, success, and glory! Look Thou upon Zion, the city of our solemnities; may our Jerusalem be made a quiet habitation; a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; may not one of the stakes thereof ever be removed, nor any of the cords thereof be broken; but may the glorious Lord be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams! For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.

ADDRESS

To the President and Members of the British Wesleyan Conference.

REV. FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—

WE thankfully acknowledge, by the hand of our respected friend, the Rev. R. Alder, the receipt of your Parental Address, dated, Bristol, August, 1839.

We are grateful for the interest you express in the settlement of our chapel property—although that question is unfortunately still undecided; and for your counsels and admonitions.

The last, as well as the preceding year, has been a season of excitement and trial in this Province; but we are happy to be able to say that the members of our Societies have sustained their long established character of loyalty, and been prompt in their response to every call of civil and military duty.

We rejoice that the present aspect of our public affairs is more peaceful and encouraging; and that there is now solid ground to hope for future peace and prosperity in this important portion of Her Majesty's North American dominions.

The circumstances of this province during the past year have been as unfavourable to the spiritual prosperity of our Societies as to the general interests of the country. Emigration from the province has been considerable; in consequence of which we have sustained a numerical decrease of one hundred and thirty-eight, although very considerable accessions have taken place on many of the circuits from actual conversions. We are thankful, however, to be able to add that there has been an increase in our Missionary Collections, during the past year, and in all our connexional funds; and never were our Societies, as a whole, more established and united than at the present time.

We have much satisfaction in again repeating the expression of our high sense of the labours of our esteemed and excellent friend and brother, the Rev. Joseph Stinson, in his office as President of the Conference, and Superintendent of Missions during the past year, and during the present session; and we beg to record our estimate of his judgment, talents and worth, by requesting his reappointment to those important offices during the ensuing year.

Our Academy, during the year, has continued in a state of increasing efficiency and success; and has acquired a high and influential character in the estimation of the Public, under the management of the highly gifted Principal—the Rev. Matthew Richey, A. M.

During the present deliberations we have been favoured with the presence and counsels of our pious and valued friend and brother, the Rev. Mr. Lusher, of Montreal; and not a little have we been gratified and profited by the presence and ministrations amongst us of your Representative, the Rev. Robert Alder, one of the general Secretaries of your Missionary Society—in whom we recognize an old and honoured

friend, and by whose various communications we have been much delighted and edified. The several subjects which Mr. Alder has brought under our consideration for adjustment, will doubtless be communicated to you by him; and we need scarcely add that we shall be happy to receive him in any relation which you may think proper to appoint him.

We have read and heard with great satisfaction of your preparatory meetings for the Centenary celebration of Wesleyan Methodism; we are making preparations to imitate, in some humble degree, your example, and to participate with you in the interesting and important services and efforts of that eventful celebration.

After a laborious and harmonious session we return to our several fields of labour, resolved to devote ourselves in humble dependence upon Him whose we are, and without whose blessing nothing is wise, or good or strong, to our one and great work of spreading scriptural holiness over the land.

Signed in behalf and by order of the Conference.

EGERTON RYERSON, Secretary.

Hamilton, U. C. June, 22nd, 1839.

CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF METHODISM.

FOR several months past preparations have been making in England and in the United States, for the celebration of the Centenary of Methodism, as it will be one hundred years next October since the formation of the first Methodist Society by Mr. Wesley.

In Great Britain and Ireland upwards of 200,000l. have been already subscribed as a thank-offering to the Lord our God for the great things he has done through the instrumentality of that form of Christianity, denominated WESLEYAN METHODISM. In the United States the periodicals and weekly publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church, teem with accounts of similar preparations, and indicate the prevalence of a like hallowed and benevolent spirit to that which pervades the parent Connexion in the old world. We perceive that the Societies in the city of Baltimore alone are resolved to make up a thank-offering of one hundred thousand dollars to be paid in two or three annual instalments—the one half to establish a fund for the support and relief of the superannuated or worn-out preachers; the other half for missionary and educational purposes, in connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Last Saturday afternoon was employed by the Canadian Conference in deliberations on this important and deeply interesting subject. It was one of the most delightful and affecting scenes we ever witnessed. All were of one heart; and all became of one judgment. The following are the resolutions agreed to:—

Resolved.—1. That the Conference, gratefully recognizing the unspeakable excellency and usefulness of Wesleyan Methodism, deem it proper and beneficial, in unison with our Fathers and Brethren in Great Britain and in the United States of America, to hold a Centenary Celebration of its institution for the purposes of devout thanksgiving to Almighty God and the promotion and extension of the great object at which Methodism aims.

2. That on Friday, the twenty-fifth day of October, 1839, appropriate Religious Services shall be held in all our chapels and congregations; for the purposes of calling to mind the great things the Lord hath done for us as a people; of solemnly recognizing our obligations and responsibilities to our Heavenly Father; and of imploring in behalf of ourselves and of the whole Wesleyan Methodist Family throughout the world, a continuance and increase of religious happiness, unity and prosperity.

3. That in addition to the religious services con-

necting with Methodism, a contribution, to be collected in the following manner, we collect a fund for the—two tenths of the parish of the disposal of other purposes.

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