

had not even the merit of originality—but was an unconscious plagiarism from the Indians of the Pacific coast.

In Canada there were likewise to be found those whom paganism had so thoroughly embruted that they might be brought into degrading comparison with the very beasts of the field—hideous, misshapen creatures in the form of man—abortions of intellectual and moral being; and then, as if all this indigenous paganism were not enough, there was being rapidly imported the Confucianism and ancestor-worship of the Chinaman. Stolid, harmless, taking no heed save of the things of lust and life, with a giant passion for gathering gold, with an equal passion for gambling it away, with no collective worship, with all religious sentiment apparently as dead within them as if both intellect and heart were embalmed. They were coming amongst the Canadians in thousands; these heathen whom God was sending to the Gospel, because the Church was so slow of heart and purse in sending the Gospel to the heathen. Considering the vastness of territory and the multiplicity of races and creeds in the Dominion, he thought it would amply appear to those present that if there was missionary ground anywhere it was in Canada, and that if there was room anywhere for the operations of an earnest Church, with the boundless love of Christ in its creed, and with the life of that love in the hearts of its members, it was in the sphere which he represented that day. Methodism in Canada, one in feeling, doctrine, and aim with their own in England, holding reverently by the same traditions, thrilled by the same primary inspiration of love to Christ, and by the secondary inspiration of many a pious pioneer legend of its own, had bravely girded itself up to this great work of evangelism.

In endeavouring to leaven the land with the pure truth of the Gospel of Christ, Methodism in Canada had certain initial advantages which were greatly helpful to successful labour. He would just mention four of them. There were two kinds of work to be done in Canada. The settler must be followed to the remotest forest which echoed to the stroke of the axe or through which arose the smoke of the clearing; and then the requirements of the age demanded that the flock, however scattered, should be housed and tended with all the shepherd's care. In these circumstances it was no small advantage that the men whom God raised up for the ministry in Canada were men who could do all kinds of work, who combined in themselves the pioneer and the pastoral elements of character. They could both fell the trees and build and furnish the house.

Another advantage was that the stream of emigration,