

THE PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH UNDER ITS CARE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Another ecclesiastical year has closed, and again we send you our annual greeting. We come to you in the name of our common Saviour, Jesus Christ. Receive us as His ambassadors and as fellow-workers with you in the salvation and sanctification of all who may be reached and edified by our united ministry.

The past year has been one of general peace and prosperity within the bounds of our Conference. No disturbing agitation has been permitted to interfere with the appointed ministration of the Board. For this we are devoutly thankful, and pray that the peace of God may abide with us during another year, and that brotherly love may continue and abound.

To render our ministry effectual to the fullest extent possible, the various agencies of the Church must be associated with the public and social means of grace. Methodism is not a congregation, but a denomination, covering a wide geographical area. Unity and success can only result from the loyal and hearty co-operation of each with the entire organization. The branch needs the vine, as also the vine the branches. This federated life is represented by the General Conference, the *Christian Guardian*, our University and Colleges, the Missionary Society, and various other benevolent enterprises. To paralyze these is to weaken our influence, limit our growth, and jeopardize the harmony and integrity of the Church. "United we stand, divided we fall."

No church organization can fully meet the demands of to-day unless evangelical labor and the earnest preaching of the Word are united with educational effort. The progress and strength of Methodism are associated with the one no less than with the other. Agencies that have so satisfactorily vindicated their usefulness cannot be dispensed with now. As there are always souls to be born anew, so there will always be minds needing intellectual quickening. The two are of kindred nature, and we should not attempt to put asunder what God hath so evidently joined together. With this end in view, the *Christian Guardian* should find a place in every Methodist home. We cannot, as Methodists, afford to be ignorant of what is transpiring on a neighboring Circuit, or in a sister Conference. Revival news reported from one field of labor may kindle a revival in your own soul and in your own community. A plea for help from some struggling missionary may awaken a spirit of liberality and interest in you that will prove a life-long benediction to yourself and others. See to it that neither spiritual nor intellectual impoverishment comes to you because of indifference in this regard.

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