

ADDRESS TO THE SOCIETIES.

DEARLY BELOVED.—“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, according as his Divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and to virtue.” We are earnestly desirous to “provoke you unto love and good works,” and we beseech you that “ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love,” as is meet and right.

During the Connexional year, now closed, the God of peace has graciously given us peace in all our borders, and on several of our Stations poured out richly of his Spirit upon the churches, to the conversion of some to God, and the building up of others in our most holy faith, and increasing in us an earnest desire to be more useful to our fellow men. It is to be greatly lamented, however, that after another year of earnest labor, so little comparatively, has been done for God. On several stations the members are fewer than were reported 12 months ago. While on the whole, our numbers are 165 accredited members more than the returns then showed. Our Sunday Schools have increased by 7 Teachers, and 309 Scholars; and 53 of our members have, we trust, passed away to God.

While we lament that we cannot show a fairer record, we are convinced that as a people, we were raised up by God; to serve His great purposes among men, and we rejoice that the history of the Denomination has amply proved that the Lord has been with us. That he is with us still, there is abundant evidence to show, and that larger and more encouraging results from the preaching of the Word, ought to have been realized during the past year, the promises of our God sufficiently demonstrate. Why have not those results ensued? Is there not a cause? Has there been that entire devotedness to God—that complete consecration to His service, which he demands—that thorough oneness with Him, which He has graciously purposed? Who is blameless in these matters?

Let it not be forgotten that, the Church's power for good depends upon the depth, consistency, and increase of personal religion in the Ministry and Membership. Nothing can be a substitute for this,—neither a talented Ministry, nor beautiful and commodious church edifices, nor large and respectable congregations, nor high outward morality, nor large contributions to the church's treasury, nor aught else that is human. The palmiest days of the church are not those in which it is hard to distinguish between the respectably moral and the professedly pious; but those days in which it is the church's glory, that although dis-esteemed and even hated by the world, although