

under a crushing burden of debt. Permit us to call to your remembrance the too often forgotten provision of our Discipline, that, where the erection of a church is contemplated, three-fourths of the estimated cost shall be secured or subscribed before any such building be commenced.

We advise a strong effort to pay off church debts throughout our Conference, in order that with lighter hearts we may all face our wider responsibilities toward God's work at home and abroad.

All our connexional funds urgently need your loyal and liberal support and are thoroughly worthy of it. In the great empire of Japan, over the wide prairies of our own North-West, are now presented to us such golden opportunities for planting our Church as can not long continue and as can not return. It is now or never. If we would do our proper part in the evangelization of these vastly important fields, we must respond with increased generosity to the call of our Missionary Society.

Our Educational Fund has strong and pressing claims upon us. Much of the permanent future success of our Canadian Methodism is dependent upon the prosperity of those institutions of learning which this fund was established to support.

The second General Conference of our Methodist Church is to assemble in Toronto on the first of September, 1886. Questions of the gravest importance are there to be discussed and decided, involving the highest interests of our Church for many days to come. We invite you to unite in fervent and believing prayer to God that a spirit of wisdom may blessedly pervade all the deliberations and evidently characterize all the conclusions of the General Conference.

Brethren, let us live for God. Train your children in the fear and love of God. Sustain all Church interests and enterprises. Win souls. Be upright in business. Be courageous in maintaining your righteous convictions. Largely by your vote the Canada Temperance Act has been brought into operation in many counties. Be consistent with yourselves and do your part toward enforcing it. Be thoughtful and patriotic citizens. Remember that country is above party, and that only righteousness exalts a nation. Let no election excitement, let no party emergency, let no private considerations cause you for one moment to swerve from the path of truth and honor.

By a pure home life, by a wholesome public influence, by personal and organized efforts for the salvation of souls, continue the good work which our fathers began, and spread practical Scriptural holiness through all this land.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

JOHN S. CLARKE, *President.*

JOSEPH YOUNG, *Secretary.*