

ADDRESS

From the Committee of Synod to the Office-bearers and Members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada on the subject of the commemoration of the Westminster Assembly.

DEAR FRIENDS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST JESUS,

OUR ONLY LORD AND REDEEMER ;

FOR many obvious reasons, it is deemed peculiarly necessary and appropriate, at the present time, to remind one another of the essential truths of the Word of God ; and that His will, as contained therein, is the only standard to which we ought with absolute submission to bow. The whole world lieth in wickedness—under the power of the wicked one : the Almighty, who has mysteriously permitted this usurpation, for purposes which in the coming Eternity He will unfold, has declared it to be His design to recover the world from the dominion of Satan : and that this His design shall be effected by a method the most astonishing—the coming into the world of the Eternal Son of God—His remaining in it for a season, teaching a certain portion of its inhabitants the only way in which the Eternal Father must be worshipped—His appointing those who believed what He thus taught, to communicate the Knowledge of it to all the world—His dying to free believers from the punishment and the power of sin—His rising out of the grave ; and, after a short residence among His disciples, His ascending to the throne of Heaven, wearing still that nature which, that the world might be recovered to its allegiance to the Father, He had, in wondrous condescension, submitted to assume—His sending from Heaven the Eternal and everywhere present Spirit, to convert, confirm, sanctify, and perfect all who should believe the truth concerning Himself. This is Jehovah's revealed method of winning back from Satan, the love and the loyalty of man. Nothing does Satan so much dread than that man should know this method, and become a fellow worker with God in acting upon it. Hence the conflict which is witnessed on earth, and the combatants are, by the Captain of salvation, arranged on one or other of but two sides—His—or Satan's. Every man born into the world is called upon to choose his side : and as the call of Christ or of Satan is responded to, every man is found to act, in advancing Christ's cause, or retarding it. Because Christ has, by the sacrifice of Himself, redeemed the world, all power in Heaven and earth has been committed unto Him, in order that no power which Satan may succeed in raising should