

PASTORAL ADDRESS.

*To the Members and Friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church
within the bounds of the Ontario Conference.*

DEAR BRETHREN: In presenting this annual "Pastoral Address" we think it is fitting, first, to express thanks to the God of all grace for the great opportunities and the encouraging success of the Conference year now just closed. It is a matter of devout thanksgiving that while the Gospel continues to be the "power of God to salvation," our Church institutions and usages continue to be honored of God in the salvation of many. In many departments of our work we are joyful and thankful to report progress and improvement, but in all departments we need perpetual vigilance, tireless labor and unfailing faith. The wonderful successes of the past have demonstrated alike the blessing of God and the unconquerable energy of the Church. To hold our present ground and make the advance to which we are called by the openings of Providence we must summon all our energies and present a united front. "Suffer the word of exhortation."

1. Guard well our grand old orthodox doctrines that have ever been the glory of Methodism. Our glory will be departed when our pulpits, Sunday-schools and press no longer voice the doctrines of a free, full and present salvation, and dark will be that day when our social meetings shall no longer be enlivened by the blissful and confessed *experience* of this great salvation. Let us emphasize well the importance of the experience of the witness of the Spirit and perfect love, not only in our creed but in our hearts.

2. We would exhort our people to cherish our class-meetings as a means of spiritual edification and comfort never excelled by any device of the past nor likely to be improved by any device of the future. All our means of grace, as the prayer-meeting, love-feast and other social meetings for spiritual edification, we hope our people will continue to prize and utilize in the future as in the past. We would call special attention to the need of reviving our interest and activity in the camp-meeting, which has been so great a blessing in our past history and continues in some parts of our Zion to bear abundant fruit in the conversion and sanctification of the people. We pray that the camp-meeting fire may never go out among us.

3. Our Sunday-school work we commend to the prayerful attention of our churches. We hope the day will soon come when all our people will engage in this good work as scholars or