

PASTORAL ADDRESS
OF THE
MINISTERS OF THE MONTREAL CONFERENCE
TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH UNDER THEIR CARE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Assembled in the ancient City of Kingston (the historic Fort Frontenac of early French occupation), and holding our sessions in a noble church erected by the untiring energy and far-seeing wisdom of the Rev. Dr. Rice, who so lately was summoned from the duties of Senior General Superintendent of our consolidated Methodism to the rest that remaineth for the peop'le of God, we send you warmest Christian greetings. While we would remind you that we are appointed as "overseers of the flock," we remind ourselves that we are "your servants for Jesus' sake."

The *Insurrection in the North-West* has brought two things to the surface: 1st. The fidelity of all our Methodist Indians; 2nd. The exuberant loyalty of our Canadian people. In the Minutes of our proceedings will be found devout acknowledgments of the mercy of God, who hath, in a measure, restored peace to us; our tender sympathy with the wounded and bereaved; and our hearty admiration of the bravery and endurance of our volunteer soldiers, who so vigorously responded to their country's call, and exposed their lives in the high places of the field.

Within the immediate borders of our own Conference this has been a year of peace; of prosperity also, as the increase of over 1,400 in our membership clearly indicates.

The *Union* so happily consummated twelve months ago has borne abundant fruit, and by degrees the new circuit arrangements are being happily adjusted. In many places gracious revivals have added to the Church, and indicated the Divine approval. During the year some churches, whose retention was not deemed desirable, have been sold. By this means and by the Trust Relief Fund—