

ADDRESS

TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CHURCH
IN CANADA.

BELOVED IN CHRIST :

We your Ministerial and Lay Representatives, are, by a kind and gracious providence, permitted to assemble in our annual Conference to deliberate for the well-being of our beloved Zion. It is true that questions of vital importance have occupied our attention, eliciting a variety of opinion, and requiring mutual Christian forbearance; but notwithstanding, our Conference has on the whole, been characterized by harmony and brotherly love. It was also apparent that there was an increased determination on the part of the whole to more than ever lay themselves out for the advancement of the cause of Christ in the land in which we live: this is as it should be, for whatever tends to connexional prosperity must have a practical bearing on the cause of God as a whole.

We have been encouraged in the discharge of our duties, by the degree of prosperity which has marked your efforts during the year. Our increase is, under all circumstances, very encouraging. We have no doubt but our increase has this year been materially affected by the unwise course pursued by several Circuits and Ministers in refusing our Conference appointments during the year. Such a course must always affect us in this particular. But more especially does it affect our mission fund. Thus causing innocent brethren, after a year of self-denying toil, to suffer for the acts of the guilty. This state of things is unjust and cannot long continue. No good, brethren, can be accomplished by insubordination to your own laws. If they are wrong the remedy is in your own hands, not in ours. In this particular we especially invite your co-operation to carry into effect the laws of the Connexion. By doing so your acts will in the end be conducive to our well-being as a whole. However, in the face of all this, we are led to infer that there must have been increasing devotedness to God among you, for Zion has prospered. This devotedness, brethren, is the germ that consti-