

Address of the Twentieth Annual Conference

OF THE
CANADIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CHURCH,
TO THE
METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CONFERENCE IN ENGLAND.

VERY DEAR BRETHREN,—With gratitude we acknowledge the distinguished favours which, as a Conference, heaven has bestowed upon us during the past year. The grievous pestilence which, unmoved by sympathy, and unsated by the multitude of its slain, has not been permitted to sever from our ecclesiastical assembly a single victim. As living monuments of providential care, we therefore feel great pleasure in approaching your venerable body, through the medium of our Annual Address; convinced that the skilful Disposer of all events, directed the plan which issued in bringing our infant cause in Canada into a relation with you, so close and interesting—a relation alike honourable to both bodies, and calculated (as the issue has proved) to subserve the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, to check the progress of despotic rule in the Christian Church, and to give stability and efficiency to the efforts of the few who regard the rights of the Laity. Convinced of these things, we should, even under adverse circumstances, feel it a duty in some respects pleasing, to furnish a brief account of past trials and labours, of our present standing, and of our cheering prospects. Favoured, however, as we have been, during the past year, the pleasure usually felt in performing a similar duty, is, in the present instance, very much enhanced. In whatever part of our enlarged field of operation we glance—whether we contemplate the location of the “back-woodsman,” or the more favoured sections of our interesting Colony, we find the most gratifying monuments of the benevolence of our English brethren. Where Chapels and Parsonages present no “monumental stone,” we have the Missionaries you have sent us, or those raised up among us; both of whom, owe much of their limited comforts to your abounding liberality. Thankful to God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, for having placed at our disposal the means of more extensive usefulness, we would surrender the most cordial expression of gratitude to the