

**SERMONS PREACHED IN TORONTO
DURING THE SESSION OF THE WESLEYAN
CONFERENCE AND PUBLISHED BY
REQUEST, AS A MEMORIAL OF THE
TORONTO CONFERENCE OF 1870**

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Sermons preached in Toronto during the session of the Wesleyan Conference and published by request, as a memorial of the Toronto conference of 1870 by Various

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PREFACE.

THE Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, which commenced its annual session in Toronto the first Wednesday, and closed it the second Friday in June, may be regarded, in several respects, as a *Memorial Conference*. An unusually large proportion of the 600 Ministers composing the Conference were in attendance. There were also present the officially appointed Representatives of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States—a Church which now numbers its Ministers by thousands and its adherents by millions. There was likewise an exchange of brotherly greetings and of pulpits between the Conference and similar annual assemblages of several other Protestant denominations, held in Toronto at the same time; demonstrating that these denominations regard each other as building upon the one True Foundation of Christian Faith, as fellow-soldiers in different regiments

of the one army of Truth against Error, of morality against vice, and of Protestant liberty against Papal despotism.

There are, furthermore, two other grounds on which this Conference may be regarded as a Memorial Conference. The arrangements and regulations were finally adopted by which the Wesleyan Missionary Society in this country and its Missions are entirely independent of the Society in England, self-supporting and self-managed; and the Book of Doctrines and Discipline of our Church, after several years deliberation and much careful labour, has been finally revised; so that an authorised and more accurate and complete edition of that important Book is to be printed for general use than has ever been published in Canada. No new doctrines or dogmas have been attempted to be created or declared, as in Rome—the doctrines of faith not being left to the decrees of man, but declared perfect from the beginning by the Lord Jesus Christ and his Apostles; nor have new rules been introduced, but verbal errors have been corrected, and such modifications in the phraseology of certain parts of the public sacramental forms of service as to adopt them to prevalent modes of speech, and render them more simple and less liable to misapprehension. There have also been forms added—chiefly derived from the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States—for laying the corner-stones and dedicating places of worship, and for admitting persons to the full membership of the Church.

In *spirit*, likewise, this Conference may be regarded as a Memorial as well as a Model Conference, as no unkind word escaped the lips of any member during the discussions, and as a very gracious influence rested upon all the proceedings and services.

As a Memorial, and for the edification and gratification of great numbers of the Ministers and members of our Church, the Conference requested written copies of the four principal discourses delivered by distinguished Ministers during the session, with a view to their publication in a Memorial volume. The first of these discourses is a sermon of great eloquence and value by the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, A.M., President of the Conference, on the Objects, Work, &c., of the Christian Ministry, addressed to candidates before their ordination. The second is a sermon of great excellence on the Atonement, by the Rev. Gervase Smith, A.M., of England, who, though simply on a private tour of health and friendship, contributed much to the delight and profit of the public services of the Conference by his addresses and discourses. The third discourse is by the Rev. J. W. Lindsay, D.D., Professor in the Methodist Boston Theological Seminary, and Representative to the Canadian Conference of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. The subject of this admirable discourse is Self-consecration. The fourth discourse is by a second Representative of the same Church,

the Rev. Dr. Lowrey, of Ohio, whose discourse and addresses afforded great satisfaction to all who had the privilege of listening to them. The subject of this excellent sermon is the Divine Beauty as displayed in the Church.

It is believed that these instructive and eloquent sermons thus collected and published in this little volume, will be read with profit and pleasure by thousands who had not the opportunity of hearing them.

TORONTO, June 20th, 1870.

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