

This occasion and these surroundings bring to our thought a long line of history, fragrant with the memories of many human lives whose work has been the building for God and humanity.

As we glance through the intervening years, we note in the far off time, the beginning, which though small, yet like the stone cut out of the mountain without hands it has rolled down the steep of time until it has filled our land with glad rejoicings, akin to the seraphic song of "Peace on earth and good will to men" The strengthening and ever-widening growth of these years of christian toil and development establish the fact that the buddings of this fruitage were rooted in heroic sacrifice and purposes consecrated to God +

From out the wilderness, from out the gloom of heathen darkness there came to christian lands the Macedonian cry "Come over and help us" from immortal souls hungering for the "bread of life" +

Though faint and indistinct the "cry" as it came from over mountains and plains towards the land of the "setting sun" yet it met a response from christian hearts and Rev Jason Lee ^{with} and four others who in the spirit of the good shepherd by the ^{aid of the} Methodist Missionary Society bidding farewell to home and friends moved out into the wilderness over plains and mountains across rivers and deserts, encountering privations and enduring hardships; never despairing never faltering and never questioning, but trustingly and hopefully pressing on under the conscious thought "He leadeth me"

over the moral welfare of these cities, towns, and hamlets, to you we turn earnestly for help + To you as men who have given your lives to sacrifice, who as coworkers with all the other christian churches of our land belongs in great part the responsibility of a healthful growth of public sentiment +

Our teachers you are; our guides to a great extent you will become: It is not for me to urge your duties upon you, but I may express the hope that in all the conflicts which you may be called upon to wage with sin, with ignorance and with error you may ^{be} armed with the ^{power of} ~~paraphrase~~ ^{Divine} + This occasion the Annual Conference must possess special interest for you + This reunion of soldiers from different battle fields all waging the same great warfare - the overthrowing of sin-

all enlisted under the same
 Commander the Almighty Ruler
 of heaven and earth, must indeed
 call up strong emotions + You
 may not recount to each other
 all your struggles and combats,
 but be assured they have all
 been recorded; these renewals of
 friendships; these interchanges of
 thought; this commingling of
 labor must be a pleasant ^{time} and
 a time to be remembered + The
 measure of success that has come
 to you in the past, has come through
 heroic sacrifice and patient toil
 under the guiding hand of "Him
 who doeth all things well" ~~may~~
 Then in view of the good that has
 been done, and in view of the
 weighty responsibilities of the
 future may we not trustingly
 labor and wait, the unfoldings
 of Infinite Wisdom?

Can not He whose hand over
 shadowed and protected Lee
 in his first coming and
~~given us this abundant~~
 whose providence has been
 manifest through all these
 years, still lead the way?

Wisdom to direct, liberality
 in providing and skill in
 executing will be needed in
 all their fullness, and may
 we not trustingly and confi-
 -dently hope that for all these
 pressing needs the Father will
 provide? In that hope we
 again bid you Welcome; Welcome
 to our City and Church + You
 have come up here from your
 respective fields of labor; another
 year of toil is ended; its joys
 and sorrows, its disappoint-
 -ments and triumphs have
 been garnered in the eternity