

ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

The will of Synod has made it our duty to lay before you "a plan for the moral and religious instruction, as well as for the future emancipation, of the slaves" under your care. We feel the responsibility and difficulty of the duty to which the church has called us, yet the character of those whom we address strongly encourages us to hope that labor will not be in vain. You profess to be governed by the principles and precepts of a holy religion; you recognise the fact that you have yourselves "been made free" by the blood of the Son of God; and you believe that you have been imbued with a portion of the same spirit which was in "Him who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor." When we point out to such persons their duty, and call upon them to fulfil it, our appeal cannot be altogether fruitless. But we have a still stronger ground of our encouragement, in our firm conviction that the cause which we advocate is the cause of God, and that his assistance will make it finally prevail. May He "who hears the cry of the poor and needy," and who has commanded to let the "oppressed go free," give to each one of us wisdom to know our duty, and strength to fulfil it.

We earnestly entreat you, brethren, to receive our communication in the same spirit of kindness in which it is made; and permit neither prejudice nor interest to close your minds against the reception of truth, or steel your hearts against the convictions of conscience. Very soon it will be a matter of no moment whether we have had large or small possessions on the earth; but it will be of infinite importance whether or not we have conscientiously sought out the will of God and done it.

We all admit that the system of slavery, which exists among us, is not right. Why, then, do we assist in perpe-