

Missionaries, they (the Committee) were justified in continuing to supply the Stations referred to. The Committee further expressed the hope that the American preachers would acquiesce in these views.

The letter was laid before the General Conference which met in the city of Baltimore in 1816, and referred to a committee,—the English delegates, Messrs. Black and Bennett, being requested to meet and converse with them upon the subject. After careful consideration of the whole question, the Committee reported *against* the proposal of the English Missionary Committee, declaring that they could not, consistently with their duties to the Societies in Canada, give up any part of them to the British Connexion.

The action thus taken by the two bodies increased, instead of allaying, the irritation in the Canadian Societies, and between the preachers; and the English Missionary Committee not only continued to station preachers in Quebec and Montreal, but sent several into Upper Canada. There can be no doubt they were led to adopt this course by the representations of members of the Canadian Societies, and by a feeling of compassion for what they conceived to be the religious destitution of the population; but however disinterested the motives may have been, the result was to be deplored; for the presence of English and American preachers in the same localities led to a feeling of antagonism between the different Societies, highly prejudicial to the interests of religion. This state of things induced Bishops McKendree and George to remonstrate with the English Missionary Committee, and to lay before them a full statement of the whole case.

The Missionary Secretaries replied to Bishop McKendree, expressing regret at the collision which had occurred between the English and American preachers. They also enclosed a copy of resolutions adopted for the guidance of the English Missionaries, wherein they were recommended to pursue their labors separate from the American preachers, and not to continue in any station occupied by the latter, except the population was so large or so scattered as to need additional ministerial aid. These resolutions, however, had no practical effect, and the dissensions continued with unabated force.

The General Conference, which met in Baltimore in 1820, again took up the question of the Canadian difficulties. A number of petitions and memorials had been sent from circuits in Upper Canada, protesting against the interference of the English Missionaries, and earnestly requesting a continuance of the labors of the American preachers. After careful consideration of the matter, the Conference resolved,—“That it is the duty of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church to continue their episcopal charge over our Societies in the Canadas, except Quebec.” The Conference also adopted an address to the brethren in Canada, in which, while deprecating existing evils, they expressed a hope that an amicable adjustment of the difficulty might be reached. The address contained a brief statement of what had already been done in the case, and an assurance that the American Conference would continue to afford the Canadian Societies all the ministerial aid in its power. At a subsequent period of the session the first resolution was modified so as to