

world in the way in which it has merged all its differences into a united whole from ocean to ocean—an example which has been followed by our brethren of the new Commonwealth of Australia, and which we hope our father in England and elder brethren of the United States will soon follow.

METHODIST UNION IN AUSTRALASIA.

The Rev. Dr. Burgess, well known in Canada, writing to the *Independent* from South Australia, notes the reality and success of the Methodist Union at the antipodes so far as it has gone, by the action of two of the Annual Conferences recently held. They chose as their presidents ministers who formerly belonged to other than Wesleyan Methodist Churches, thus proving that ecclesiastical distinctions have disappeared in fact as well as in form. The Rev. John Orchard, who was elected to the chair of the New Zealand Conference, was an influential minister of the Bible Christian Church prior to the union. In Queensland the Rev. William Powell, a member of the former Primitive Methodist Church, has been elected president of the united Conference.

In Victoria and Tasmania the date of organic union is definitely fixed to be January 1st, 1902. In Western Australia the Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian ministers that were employed have been temporarily loaned to the Wesleyans, and the properties transferred, so that union is already practically complete.

In South Australia the union of the Wesleyans, Primitives and Bible Christians is to take effect on next New Year's Day. Out of three hundred delegates at the Union Conference lately held only three hands were held up against the proposition. "It is a little singular," remarks Dr. Burgess, "perhaps more than an accidental coincidence, that New South Wales, which has blocked Australian federation, should be the colony in which the union movement in Methodism is the most backward and slow. There still a probability that union will be effected in New South Wales at the same time as in Victoria, and a moral certainty that it cannot be much longer delayed.

PROMOTED.

God still buries his workers though he carries on his work. Every month adds to the number summoned from labour to reward. On April 20th, at the advanced age of eighty-three, Rev. W. Norton

passed peacefully away at his home in Brussels. He entered the itinerancy forty-six years ago. The field of his ministry has been chiefly in the Province of Quebec, where he laboured on arduous circuits. Growing infirmities for some years compelled a superannuated relation, but according to the measure of his strength he continued to labour.

For the lofty and the lowly awaits alike the inevitable hour. A distinguished member of the Methodist Church has been called from the Supreme Court of Canada to the high court of heaven. Justice George Edward King was born in St. John, N.B., sixty-two years ago. He was a graduate of Mount Allison College and Wesleyan University. He was a leading member of the New Brunswick bar, for eleven years a member of its Provincial Assembly, for eight years Attorney-General in his native province. He became a puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1893 and was a member of the British Commission on the Behring Sea seal fishery. Mount Allison and New Brunswick universities both conferred upon him the highest scholastic titles in their gift. A summary of his life can be expressed in the words of the prophet, "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God."

By the death of the Rev. John Hunt passed away another of the venerable fathers of Canadian Methodism. He was born eighty-three years ago in what we may call the native county of Methodism, Lincolnshire. John Hunt, the famous Fiji missionary, was the son of his father's brother. The pathway of the cousins lay far apart, but each served his generation by the will of God. Coming to Canada with his parents in his fourteenth year, our John Hunt spent twelve years in the hard work of clearing and working a farm about fifteen miles from Toronto. Deprived of early educational advantages, he was, according to opportunity, a diligent student and throughout life a voracious reader. After his conversion and inward call to the ministry he was wont to fasten his Greek grammar to the plough handles, and so mastered the key to the New Testament in the original. To the very last he was a diligent reader of the best literature. We have a letter written on his death-bed describing, in detail, the pleasure and profit he derived from recent reviews we had the pleasure of furnishing him.

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