

year the income shall not be sufficient to meet the claims in full, then all claimants shall share in the deficiency in proportion to the amount of their respective claims.

*Changes neither Numerous nor Radical.*

Let us now enquire just what changes and concessions are involved in the Basis of Union as finally adopted, so that we may be in a position to determine whether they are of such a character as to call for an adverse vote from any Quarterly Meeting or Conference. I am persuaded that most people will be surprised that the concessions, as a rule, are so small, and the changes so few. During the sessions of the Union Committee, a great many proposals were made and published that were not finally adopted, while some things carried at an early stage were afterwards rescinded. From this circumstance, many have received an erroneous impression of what was really done, and it is the more desirable, therefore, that a distinct summary should be presented. It should be understood, moreover, that part of what is contained in the Basis is little more than a statement of what has been the practice in all the uniting Churches in the past, and which they agree shall continue in the future, the changes being so slight as to call for no comment; while another part, referring to Church Funds, and Educational, Publishing, and Church Property Institutions, contains simply proposals for adjusting certain financial interests, and involves no particular "concessions" on either side. Divested of all extraneous matter, we get the following points:—

1. *Doctrine, etc.*—In Standards of Doctrine, Articles of Religion, General Rules, Ordinances, Reception of Members, and Means of Grace, no changes or concessions are necessary.

2. *The General Conference.*—No change is proposed in the composition or functions of this body as it has existed in the Methodist Church of Canada, and in the Methodist Episcopal Church. But the Primitive Methodists and Bible Christians, in coming into the Union, concede the transfer of legislative authority from the Annual to the General Conference.

3. *General Superintendency.*—On this point, if the Basis is confirmed, all the uniting Churches will make concessions. The