

of light, with a slight twinkle in its movements. He loves an anecdote well told,—can do so himself—or a stroke of wit,—and for an Englishman, has considerable of this commodity. There was no assumed solemnity, or affected dignity, in the Chair; he sat there about as easily as he would by his own fireside. You felt free in his presence, but no disposition to undue familiarity, or to pass the boundary of strict decorum; his presence imposed not awe, or a painful apprehension of offending, but respect and confidence. You were placed under no peculiar temptation to oppose him, as it would be like entering the lists with a giant, and you involuntarily shrunk from the encounter. His impartiality was never exceeded in allowing freedom in debate; in this respect a new era was introduced in Conference. The youngster, with his heart fluttering in his attempt to rise, to make his maiden speech, was as sure to catch his eye, and in his turn have a patient hearing, as any of the old and well-practiced orators. With a mind of uncommon clearness in its preceptions, and of great vigor and firmness, he has, what is far from being a uniform attendant upon such, a deeply sympathetic nature,—can readily “weep with those that weep.” To his everlasting honor be it said, that we never knew him take any side but that of mercy, where it was at all possible to show mercy. We have heard him irresistibly plaintive and eloquent in cases of erring and offending brethren, when he would draw from the fountains of his large soul, once broken up, with the force and impetuosity of strong emotion, then with his full, manly voice, would he utter in impressive tones and supplicatory accents, the pleadings and cries of mercy, and with thrilling effect,—and successful issue,—though in that Conference he had men to plead with as strong in virtue, and as jealous of the purity of the brotherhood, as were ever Romans in the most palmy days of their commonwealth,—of their liberty and their patriotism.

Some have said that his prudence or caution is excessive, but we would like illustrations of it. We have seen him pressed by strong influences, coming from free, talented and influential brethren in the course of Conference debates, who might at one time be disposed to complain of his calmness and slowness in bringing a motion or an amendment to a close; and yet we know these very brethren have acknowledged afterwards that his plan of conducting the business was best for the interest of the Church, his ardent love for which, none have ever questioned. We have a very striking proof of his wisdom as an administrative officer, from the difficulties of his work when he came to Canada, occasioned by antagonistic parties having not only to be reconciled, but united,—of his foresight and heartiness in the consolidation of Canadian Methodism by the incorporation of Lower Canada,—and with a success that has been of the most perfect kind.