

excellent Dr. Rice, and that Dr. Ryerson also has, within the same period, been summoned from your midst. These brethren were well known and highly esteemed on our side of the water; and knowing how deeply you have suffered in their removal, we feel a sympathetic sorrow in your bereavement.

But, at the same time, we rejoice that the Great Head of the Church has not left you destitute of gifted and devoted men who are well able to comprehend the Church's needs, and hold the helm of its affairs. We gladly recognize in Dr. Sutherland such a man, and have been greatly gratified by the Methodist love and generous sentiments of his lucid and powerful address.

We have heard with much interest of the successful accomplishment of the project for the union of the different Methodist Churches of the Dominion. In a country like yours, free from the extremes of society, and lacking the varieties of social condition which are found in our own land; a country also where the people are scattered over a vast territory, and nowhere aggregated in such multitudes as to allow of the very large and varied development of church life and activity among separate Churches having a general family likeness in doctrine and discipline; we cannot wonder that the ministers and laymen of the different denominations in Canada could no longer recognize, as your Address expresses it, any "justifiable ground for separation and rivalry." You have no very large number of persons lifted by their position out of easy fellowship with the masses of the people on the one hand, and no very large degraded classes on the other, but a population, to a great extent, homogeneous and largely on a level. For such a homogeneous population it might well seem desirable that one Methodist Church should make spiritual provision. Moreover, the formerly existing divisions among the Methodist bodies not being native to the Dominion, but imported, for the most part, from the mother country, seemed to have no proper roots in your soil. Happily, also, the intermediate position of the Wesleyan Methodist Church among the different uniting bodies offered a peculiarly favorable condition for union on the basis of the essential principles of Wesleyan Methodism.

We cannot express too strongly our gratification that in effecting this union you have taken security for the maintenance, in all time to come, of the distinctive doctrines and economy of Methodism. This, we are persuaded, will tend to give strength to your union, and may be regarded as no uncertain pledge of your future success.

Now that this great matter is settled, we trust that you will be able to address yourselves, with your augmented strength and resources, both to Home Evangelization and Foreign Missions. From the reports we have received of your gratifying successes

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