

In the meantime a definite proposal for the organic union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches had emanated from the Methodist Church; the General Conference, at its quadrennial meeting held in the city of Winnipeg in September, 1902, having adopted the following resolution:

"WHILE this Conference declares itself in favor of a measure of organic unity wide enough to embrace all the evangelical denominations in Canada, and regrets that hitherto all efforts and negotiations have failed to result in the formulation of such a comprehensive scheme, so that at present the outlook for it does not seem practicable;

Yet, inasmuch as the problem of the unification of several of these denominations appears to present much less serious obstacles, since their relations are already marked by a great degree of spiritual unity, and they have already become closely assimilated in standards and ideals of church life, forms of worship and ecclesiastical polity;

And since, further, the present conditions of our country and those in immediate prospect demand the most careful economy of the resources of the leading and aggressive evangelical denominations, both in ministers and money, in order to overtake the religious needs of the people pouring into our new settlements, which economy seems impossible without further organic unity, or its equivalent;

This General Conference is of the opinion that the time is opportune for a definite practical movement concentrating attention on, and aiming at the practical organic unity of, those denominations already led by Providence into such close fraternal relations.

And whereas a definite proposal has been discussed to some extent in the press and elsewhere looking to ultimate organic union of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches in Canada, this General Conference, in no spirit of exclusiveness towards others not named, declares that it would regard a movement with this object in view with great gratification, believing that the deliberate friendly discussion of the doctrinal, practical and administrative problems involved, with the purpose of reaching an agreement, would not only facilitate the finding and formulation of a Basis of Union, but would also educate the people interested into a deeper spirit of unity, and into that spirit of reasonable mutual concession on which the successful consummation of such movements ultimately so largely depends.

And this General Conference would further commend this movement to the prayerful interest and sympathy of the Methodist Church, in the devout and earnest hope that, if organic union of the denominations named be achieved, it may be accompanied with great blessings to the Church and to the nation at large and redound to the greater glory of God.

That a representative committee, to be composed of the General Superintendent, seven ministers and seven laymen, be appointed to receive communications on the subject of the foregoing resolutions from the Churches named, confer with committees that may be appointed by such Churches, and report to the next General Conference."

This resolution was submitted to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at its annual meeting held in the city of Vancouver in June, 1903, and by it referred to its Committee on Correspondence with other Churches.

This committee met on the 21st of April, 1904, in conference with the committees of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"THAT this Joint Committee, composed of representatives of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, assembled to confer together