

accepted the compromise and co-operated with us in the formation of the Basis, I am convinced the Spirit of our God was with us, and that a work was accomplished that never could have been accomplished except under His guidance and influence. And so I am persuaded that, even as occurs in the conversion of every sinner to God, while there is a work that absolutely cannot be done without God's Spirit, it can very easily be done by the Spirit of the Lord when the man or men submit to His direction and rule.

But we must also remember that while God's special works, like the conversion of men, are impossible to us, it is not impossible to us to hinder or reject God's special works, as many a man rejects his own conversion and plunges into darkness. My only anxiety in the matter is, that we know the will of God and do it. And to this end we must walk in humility and purity before Him, with the eye single to His glory, and in all things submit ourselves to the teaching of His Word and the ever blessed Holy Ghost. Oh, for His abiding upon this Conference, and in all our hearts! Whether we unite or remain separate as now, we all need the Holy Ghost.

From all these considerations this Conference, our Quarterly Conferences, and our Church can easily gather my spirit and convictions in this important business. Personally I had been better satisfied had this agitation not arisen, but I dare not speak against what may be the providence of God. Whether of good or evil, or for good or ill, a mighty movement for the unification of our Methodisms is upon us, and we must meet its issues. Let us prepare to meet them with intelligence, calmness, and brotherly love, and in the love and fear of God. If our Church constitutionally says "Union," let us all say it and stand together. If our Church constitutionally reject this Basis, let us remain loyally together and prosecute the work of God. If the Church constitutionally reject the Basis and say "No" to Union, my voice then would be to brace up our polity, rebuild the broken walls and give our people that to which they will loyally adhere. But for the present hour, when I look at the interests of the Church of Christ to be advanced by a united Methodism, the economy of our men and means here, and the better direction of our energies in the North-West of our Dominion, and in remote parts of the earth, the removal of the occasions of friction and contention betwixt rival denominations holding the same doctrines, occupying the same fields and often the same homes, the incitements to brotherly love and peace, the improved enforcement of discipline, the better systematizing of our claims, our societies and Sabbath-schools, the greater vigor of our educational institutions, and Publishing Concerns, and wider dissemination of a harmonious and homogeneous literature, the increased spiritual momentum of such a body if it abide in unity, humility and love, when on the other hand I consider that it cannot be that the Methodists of this Dominion are for ever to remain divided and at cross purposes, if not in conflict, that the longer Union is delayed the more difficult practically, if not constitutionally, it becomes; that our own Conference has brought our polity nearly to the Union line in the Basis; that though important concessions are made, yet upon honest conviction our sacred interests are guarded and our central and fundamental positions in a good degree maintained; that there is no likelihood that any of the bodies will ever be in a better fraternal spirit or make larger concessions, seeing each has conceded according to its convictions of duty and honor; that if there be no Union now there is great danger of even fiercer strife; that though there may be objections to the Basis for each Church from its own point of view, and practical difficulties in it, yet forbearance and love under light from above can make them temporary and transient; and the Spirit of the Lord and true Christian faith and works which we may reasonably pray for and expect can in proper time remove all difficulties, heal all breaches, and lead to success; when I look on this side and then on that I am constrained to say that in my judgment the time has come for the union of the Methodist Churches of this country: the time for rising above old contentions, chronic irritation, personal interests, narrow views, and every impulse, feeling, and consideration, but the cause of God and the settled principles of religion, honor and truth. Wherefore I would