THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1883.

THE UNION CARRIED!

question is decided and Methodism is | Campbell have been among the leading to be one from the Atlantic to the opponents of the Basis. Most admirable Pacific!

The following despatch was received last night from the Rev. T. Watson Smith, Editor of the Wes-

"Debate on Union ended at midnight. Numerous delegates arrived during the day. Earnest efforts were failed, but a resolution pledging the Conference to such a modification in the Superintendent's relation to the Annual Conference, moved by President of Montreal Conference and seconded by Dr. Douglas, relieved some minds: the Doctor eloquently urged a unanimous vote for the basis. Dr. Williams briefly reviewed the past, and with deep feelings avowed his continued dissent. Dr. Sutherland answered various objections in brilliant style, after which, amid breathless interest, the vote was taken shewing 123 in favor of basis and 38 against. The debate has been lively and conducted in kindly and loyal spirit, only five lay delegates in all opposed the given by Maritime delegates.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Nearly all the delegates from the

Maritime Conferences reached Belle-

ville on the evening of the 29th ult. A number had travelled via Yarmouth and Boston, and these after a pleasant journey joined at Prescott their brethren who had come over the Intercolonial. The writer had halted at the quiet French village of Kamouraska, and spent two or three days there. The stiring debates of succeeding days have not allowed him to forget a pleasant service held on Sunday evening in the large room of the "Hotel de Saint Louis de Kamouraska." About sixty hearers, gathered from several Canadian cities, and representatives of several branches of the Church, listened to the sermon with the closest attention. This service was the last of a series which has held without any violation of obligabeen chiefly maintained through the tion—that one may receive, or even of Halifax, who for reasons of health and make no compensation unless he have spent the earlier part of the year is so disposed. Now, to say nothing in South Carolina, and recent months of the fact that the very existence of On the afternoon of the same day a seems to imply that the requisite sup-Sunday school, held at their residence, port shall not be contingent or depenwas brought to a formal close. How dent upon the inclination or choice of valuable such efforts, in the presence its members, there is high scriptural

who can tell?

ception of a brief space spent in the else referred to in the scriptures the reading of reports, have been devoted 9th of 1st Cor. is decisive. The to discussions on the Basis of Union, apostle is treating of the matter con-The speeches have been, on the whole, troversially, his right to claim a marked by much ability. Reports of maintenance from the church having them will no doubt appear in the been called in question. He asks. Wesleyan, and lengthy reference to (v. 7.) "who goeth a warfare any them is not therefore needed. Con- time at his own charges? who plantsiderable freedom in debate has eth a vineyard and eateth not of been permitted by the impartial the fruit thereof? or who feed-President, Rev. Dr. Rice. He not un- eth a flock, and eateth not of the wisely judges that, at a critical period, milk of the flock? * * saith not when men of ability and position in the LAW the same also?" He then the church are found advocates of op- proceeds to declare what the law saith: posite views, it is well to allow them "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of year how is it possible for him to esto state at length their opinions and, if the ox that treadeth out the corn," possible, talk themselves into accord. (v. 9.) but allow him an equivalent for From the tenacity with which some his work. Again: "Do ye not know liabilities at the end of the year ? The men hold their opinions, there seems that they which minister about holy minister of the Gospel is the last man slight probability of complete unthings live of the things of the temple? animity. The minds of a few (v. 13.) The tribe of Levi, (selected have, we believe, been set at rest to perform the services required by cling to him, and hang upon his heart by a resolution carried this morn- the temple,) was to be maintained out ing, making the presence of the of the means of the other tribes, a tax meeting, into the class-meeting, into "Restricture Rules" indespensable of one tenth being levied on their inin the Discipline of the United come for that purpose, (Num. 18:20, Church. These, with no intention on 21.) The apostle concludes, "even so the part of the Committee, to finally hath the Lord ORDAINED that they omit them, did not appear in the which preach the gospel should live of Basis as published, and grave suspilithe gospel," (v. 14.) "Even so." These cions, which many could not under- words are the key to the argument. stand, seemed to have been aroused They proclaim the equity of the law. by this fact. Had the cause of their | They show an Old Testament principle omission been clearly understood, the transferred to the New Testament question of union would no doubt economy. They give a gospel interprehave passed the Annual Conferences tation to a Levitical statute—or to be settled, whether it is right for a by a much larger majority.

Until this morning most of the of Union the speech of Professor Bur- honor,"-entitled not only to meat wash, of Victoria University, is refer- and drink (which "the ox that tread- membership at Grafton Street Church red to with great satisfaction. In eth out the corn" receives,) but also to on Sabbath last.

it could scarcely be excelled. Others liberal provision and maintenance. of much excellence have been given on the same side by Revs. Dr. Ryck. man and J. Lathern, and others. Revs. Dr. Jeffers, Dr Dewart, Leroy The agony is over! The great Hooker, W. S. Griffin and T. M. speeches in favor of the Basis have been given by Judge Dean, Judge Jones, Dr. Allison, and Messrs. W. H. made to bring all into harmony; these called forth congratulations from the reasons why, as one of the Committee, he had gone a little beyond the instructions of the Conference, and why, after the vote of the Quarterly Boards and Annual Conferences, the

leave, it was to-day resolved that the vote should not be taken before 9 p.m. basis. Only two votes against it were on Monday. It is probable that at some hour during the night a decision will be reached. There can be no EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE. doubt that a large majority of the delegates are in favor of the adoption of the Basis as it is. The only hope of those opposing it is that a threequarters vote may possibly be found

> I have only time to add that Rev. R. Brecken, A. M., has been here as a visitor, and has gone to spend the Sabbath at the Thousand Island Park. pretty city in which the Conference should LIVE of the gospel." meets, but must forbear.

T. W. S.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The duty of every Christian to contribute to the support of the ministry is a subject which is yet, in some quarters, but imperfectly understood or boldly questioned. The prevalent idea is that such contributions are strictly voluntary, and may be withefforts of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, demand all the offices of the ministry of a dense mass of Romanism, may be, authority which settles the question, and positively affirms the obligation.

The last three days, with the ex- Even if the subject were nowhere almost identical with the Jewish. The speaking had been done by ministerial principle maintained is that he "that delegates. The speech of Dr. Suther- is taught in the word" is bound by the land in moving the adoption of positive obligation of duty to "comthe Basis was a most able one. Any- municate to him that teacheth, in all thing finer is seldom heard in parlia- | good things" necessary for his support. mentary halls. The able mover of the In fact in 1 Tim. 5: 17, 18 the Apostle amendment, the Rev. Dr. Williams, goes a step farther and argues from Vice-President, had not equal inspiration the same premises that the "Elder from which such information should tion in his effort, for neither theme nor | who rules well, and especially they audience were calculated to arouse who labor in word and doctrine. equal enthusiasm. Among the friends should be counted worthy of double

receive support from the churches? and did he not work with his own hands that he might not be chargeable to them?" Allowing this to be true, it did not affect his right to claim an determination to build and open a new adequate support from the churches— church that shall be free of debt. a right which he persistently asserts. This "new departure" should be en-For instance, in verses 4-6 he asks, couraged, and a trip to Summerville "Have we not power to eat and drink? will afford unlimited enjoyment. See Lambly, John T. Moore, W. H. Have we not power to lead about a advertisement. Ryder, and W. Eyers. But two lay-sister, a wife" (that is, a family also,) men have taken the opposite side. "as well as the other apostles," at | We are glad to be able to lay before We are doubtful whether any others vour expense? "Have we not power our readers a full report of the first can be found. Dr. Allison's speech to forbear working" with our hands, day's proceedings of the General Conand claim a maintenance from you? ference at Belleville, taken from the numerous friends. It seemed to us a But it is not true that the work of his Toronto Globe. That our people may mystery that any one could listen to hands supplied all the apostle's neces- have the fullest and earliest possible sities. For he reminds the Corinth- information, we have also transferred ians (2 Cor. 11:8, 9,) that when he to our columns the despatches of the was in need "the brethren which Halifax Herald and Chronicle, giving came from Macedonia supplied what summaries of the proceedings of subwas "lacking," and the acceptance of sequent days to the latest date. These Basis should be fully adopted by the these gifts he calls robbery or spoliation demands upon our space have made it General Conference, and yet remain of the Macedonians, because he took necessary to defer other valuable mattheir money without giving them an ter until next week. In order to set at rest the minds of equivalent. And, by the way, this those who have to take a temporary word "robbery," used by the Apostle, suggests another question or two: whether it is right for a church or circuit that is able, but unwilling, to support a minister to look for assistance to other quarters; and, by parity of reasoning, whether it is right for half of a church or society to carry the entire responsibility of supporting the minister, and relieve the other half who are equally able, but not so willing, to do their share. From what has been said, then, it appears that the apostle's working with his own hands does not in the least degree invalidate the ordinance of Christ, I would like to add something of the that "they which preach the gospel

> If we are correct in onr interpretations of Scripture, it follows that it is the duty of every Christian to contribute his share to the support of the ministry. The oracles of God leave him no choice. They do not leave his duty to be inferred. They ffx and announce it. They do not determine the amount of the minister's stipend, nor limit the amount which each member of the church should pay. But as under the law there was a graduated scale, so that he who could not offer a lamb was to bring a pigeon, and he who could not offer a pigeon was eth," and thus bear his share of the general burden. Nor can we conceive of a more just and effective plan for equalizing that burden than by a general and equitable assessment, graduated eaccording to the circumstances and "ability" of each mem-

Now that the Financial District meetings have been held, and the estimates for the current year have been made out, our Stewards will no doubt turn a vigorous hand to "ways and means." The minimum salary which has been fixed for our ministers is barely enough to enable them to provide for their necessities, and to this they are as much entitled as the workman to his wages, for "the laborer is worthy of his hire." But if he has to bear a deficiency of \$200 or \$300 a cape perpetual worry and soul-sickening anxiety as to how he is to meet his who should be harrassed by financial embarrassment. The incubus will wherever he goes-into the prayerthe pulpit, and into the homes of his flock, and will tone down all his official acts and utterances, and torture him with visions of unpaid bills. The If a delegate had not been here, and warp and woof of many a sermon heard from the pulpit has been woven in the study amid the interruptions of spectral I. O. U.'s, and the obtrusion of irrepressible interjections

and sighs that would not hush. It is a question in ethics that ought rather, signify that the Christian law is Quarterly Board to carry over from year to year, large balances of unpaid debts to their ministers. The Methodists are proverbially a liberal people and warmly attached to their pastors, and, as a general rule, they only need to be informed as to the facts and necessities of the case to do what is right. And the proper official source

Four persons were received into full

tone and style and convincing power the "labourer's reward" of a more | The Mount Allison Ladies Academy has again opened with a large atten-"But did not the apostle decline to dance. Over eighty students are en-

> The Methodist congregation at Summerville deserve great credit for their

GENERAL CONFERENCE

METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

From the Toronto Globe.) Belleville, Aug. 29th.

The adjourned session of the deneral Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada was opened to-day. The proceedings posses special interest from the fact that the Union question is the sole topic under consideration, and upon the conclusion arrived at by this Conference, in common with that of the Bible Christian Conference, depends the issue as to whether the whole Methodist bodies in Canada shall form a united Church. There is a very large attendance of delegates. Toronto Conference sends 64. London 58, Montreal 38, Nova Scotia 20, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island 18, Newfoundland 8. The Rev. Dr. Meacham, of Tokio, Japan, is present as a visitor. The sittings of the Conference are held in Bridge-street Church, an exceedingly

was held this evening, Rev. Dr. Rice presiding. Devotional exercises were

commodious building.

conducted by the President and by Rev. Drs. Sutherland and Williams. The President, in opening business, said: The General Conference of which this is an adjourned meeting, directed me as follows :--"The to present flour, &c., so every man is General Conference recommends that forwarded amendments. The Conferto give "of the ability which God giv- members of the above named Com- ence should know the number of Boards mittee be elected by representatives of the several Annual Conferences here of Union as well as the number voting present, and that said Committee for Union. (Applause.) Was the Secmeet for organization before the ris- retary prepared to submit such inforing of the General Conference. It mation? further recommends that should the Committee agree as to the details of the basis of union the plan of union of the report. On motion the report agreed upon shall be submitted to the Quarterly Boards for approval, or otherwise be brought before the quarterly meetings, and also at the next ensuing Annual Conference. It is further recommended that superintendents of circuits be requested to report to the Secretary of the General Conference the vote of the quarterly meetings; and if it be found that two-thirds of them, and also a majority of the Annual Conferences voting thereon, have declared in

> by the Joint Committee, the President of the General Conference shall convene the Conference in order to give effect to the proposed union, said meeting of General Conference to be held subsequent to the meetings of Annual Conferences." I thought. therefore, in acting on these instructions and calling the adjourned meeting of the General Conference very closely in connection with the General Conference of the new or united Church (in case of the acceptance of the basis of union) it would be most in accordance with the desire of members of this Conference.' The roll of members was then

favour of the plan of union proposed

called. A question having arisen as to alternates, the President said that as several applications had been made to him on this point it was desirable that he should now give a ruling on it. no reserve delegate had taken his place, the delegate had a right to his seat, but if a reserve delegate had taken his place in Conference of which this is an adjournment, the reserve

delegate holds the seat. REPORT OF THE BASIS OF UNION. Rev. Dr. Sutherland presented the following report concerning the basis of union and the vote thereon :-

To the President and members of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, in adjourned session

In accordance with instructions the Committee appointed by this Conference at its session in the city of Hamilton in September last, to meet in joint session with similar Committees appointed by the Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal, the Primitive Methodist, and the Bible Christian Churches, for the purpose of preparing, if possible, a basis upon which the various Methodist Churches in this Dominion might form an organic union, assembled in the city of Toronto, pursuant to appointment, on the last Tuesday in Nov., 1882. The Joint Committee continued in session for eight days, and, after careful consideration, and an exhaust ive discussion of the more important points involved, an agreement was reached by votes that were virtually unanimous. The find-

ings of the Committee were then formulated and printed in a document entitled "The sed basis of union," and a copy sent to each Circuit Superintendent throughout our counection to be laid before the quarterly official boards for consideration and vote. Copies were also sent to the presidents of the Annual Conferences to be laid before these bodies, and the document was published in the papers of the various Methodist Churches information of the people at large. The official report of the vote in the quarterly boards shows the following result :- Entire number of boards voting, 749; number for the basis, 649; rumber against the basis, 90; ties, 10. Only two of the Annual Conferences have reported their vote to the Secretary of this Conference. In other cases the figures are taken from the reports published in our connexional papers. The vote stands present it.

For Agn'st. Maj. for. Maj. 100 London 15 Montreal . Nova Scotia ... 34 New Brunswick . 40 28 Newfound and ... 26

as fellows :-

Total......431 251 193 Rev. J. Gray moved an adjournment till to-morrow. The motion was negatived by a large majority. Rev. W. Williams asked whether it

was correct to say that the finding of the Committee was virtually unanimous when several dissented. He called attention simply to this error of

THE MANITOBA VOTE.

competent for the newly formed Conference of Manitoba to vote on this ed. He perfectly understood there matter, inasmuch as it had not an ex- were grave constitutional questions, istence when the General Conference adjourned. Further, if their vote give effect to decision arrived at in rewas accepted, there was a duplicate if spect to them. (Applause.) not a triplicate vote.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland said individual votes were only valuable as an expres- effort to force matters and to prevent sion of opinion by ministers of the discussion is suspicious and alarming, Church. In regard to Manitoba, there (Murmurs of dissent.) had been no duplicate or triplicate vote. The votes of three or four who had voted elsewhere were not cast, and the votes represented persons who had not voted elsewhere.

Rev. Dr. Williams-But what about persons who have not voted at all. of whom there are a large number? The difficulty is that Manitoba formed part sing the subject and of seeing where of Toronto Conference when the vote the points of difficulty lay as were was taken in the latter Conference. There was undoubtedly an informality so far as the individual votes were concerned. The matter is of little consequence, except so far as furnish ing an expression of opinion. Rev. W. R. Parker failed to see

that there had been anything improper in the act of the Manitoba Conference. Rev. T. Campbell said the reference to the quarterly meetings had been made in order that the mind of the Church might be obtained. In a circular sent to the Quarterly Boards it to be adopted by a two-thirds vote. was stated that they might send It was utterly unnecessary that a speamendments if they felt disposed. He cial motion should be passed to meet had reason to believe that a good many the present case. Boards acted on the suggestion, and making such suggestions to the Rasis | were to be accorded that

The President said the subject before the Conference was the reception was received.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland moved that himself. His object in moving the rethe Basis of Union be the order of the solution was to provide that discussion day for ten to-morrow morning. He presumed the Conference did not want now to consider it, as only 122 members out of 206 were present.

Mr. John Macdonald-It would be something entirely new in the proceedings of legislative bodies to adjourn men have come here, for the sake of a few who had the same notice and who might have been present. On the other hand I may be very much mistaken, but if I properly understand the call, we are here for one purpose. At the Conference in Hamilton it was clearly and distinctly stated that if the Union Committee succeeded in finding a basis of union, such basis should be sent down to whom? To the Quarterly Meetings representing the entire Church of the Dominion, that they should look at it and pronounce upon it, that they should take the responsibility of deciding upon it. It should then be referred to the Annual Conferences, that the ministers should view it from their standpoint, and that, if the requisite majority of those two courts was secured, the President of the General Conference should convene this body. For what?

THE OBJECT OF MEETING.

To alter, modify, or destroy the basis? No, but to give effect to it. (Applause) I take it that this is the only work for the way, and for the Conference to which we are convened here-(mur- affirm that to begin with is to affirm murs) - and if, after submitting this what a very large number of delegates grave question to the intelligence of are not prepared to affirm. On the the men who constitute the Church in other hand, if in view of the objecthe Dominion, we have the power to tionable character of the preamble you cut and carve it, then I greatly mis- reject the resolution, then it will go understood the call which has brought us together. (Applause.)

things might be lawful they might not a right beginning? The idea of prebe expedient, and in this important | venting thorough discussion is to cast matter it was needful if possible to a slur on the fairness, integrity, and avoid all ground for complaint.

The President said there might be We take it as a matter of course that memorials to the Conference, and sug- every one will have a right to discuss gested that they might be read to- the question. But the Conference has

ly meeting appended to their votes, in not. If we will not be held by the esfavor of union, resolutions recommend- tablished principles which govern all ing certain amendments or additions deliberative bodies, we will not be to the Basis of Union. It was desir- bound by resolutions. able that the Conference should be informed what those were and what ed of experiences at the last General effect they might have on future leg- | Conference which do not harmonize islation, whether in that General Con- with what has fallen from the last

Judge Jones said the memorials were not before the Conference. His impression was that they were made, not to the Conference, but to the Quarterly Boards, giving opinions as to what changes should be made by the General Conference.

Mr. J. T. Moore urged the adoption of a resolution fixing the Union question as the order for to-morrow. He thought the time to night could be more profitably spent in prayer than

in discussion. Mr. W. Ayres. - There is at least one memorial to this Conference. When the proper time arrives I will

The resolution was adopted.

AN IMPORTANT MOTION. Rev. Dr. Williams-The Basis of Union having been received by the Conference, without the same having been read, I beg to move,

Inasmuch as grave constitutional changes are proposed in the Basis of Union to be submitted to this body, and masmuch as ser ous legal difficulties present themselves for esideration, be it resolved that the General basis until a full and free discussion the points involved shall have taken place in this General Centerence.

Rev. Dr. Sanderson seconded the resolution.

Mr John Macdonald - It is very clear that the resolution is out of order. The mover of the resolution affirms, without furnishing proof, that Rev. W. R. Parker asked if it was there are serious legal difficulties and grave constitutional questions involvand the call of this Conference was to

> Rev. Dr. Jeffers-Have we not come here to vote freely and fairly. This

> Sheriff Freeman said the wording of the resolution indicated that grave fears were entertained in some quarters that the Conference was inclined to pass the Basis without discussion. There was no such danger to be apprehended. (Applause.) The friends of union were just as desirous of discus. their opponents. The resolution was altogether unnecessary. He could not understand the motive which actuated the mover in submitting it. There was no danger that the basis would be rushed through. They all wanted legal and constitutional difficulties to be removed and everything done in order.

> Rev. T. G. Williams said that when questions were before deliberating bodies they were discussed until a de cision was arrived at. The motion had been made to limit debate, but it had

FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.

Rev. Dr. Williams was glad they had been occasions in the General Conference where they did not enjoy that liberty. (Hear, hear.) It should not be assumed that those who did not fall in with all the views of the leaders of union were not friends to union. No one present had the right to assume that all honesty of purpose rested with should not be choked off. If delegates did not approve the resolution it could be voted down without motives being imputed. Let the Conference begin right and in good spirit, not with warmth, because nothing would there. by be gained. He did not hesitate to the proceedings when so many busy say that there were grave legal difficulties in the way of union. If they spent a month in discussion, the union should be settled in a manner conducive to the interests of the Church. Rev. S. Bond asked whether the

preamble was intended to have any effect as setting forth what majority should be sufficient to accept or reject the basis of Union.

Rev. Dr. Jeffers said that was too serious a question to be now brought

Rev. Dr. Sutherland - I most heartily agree with Dr. Williams that it is important in this matter we should begin right. If we begin with that resolution

WE BEGIN DISTINCTLY WRONG.

Applause.) The resolution, if adopt. ed by the Conference, declares that in its judgment there are grave constitutional changes involved, and grave legal difficulties in the way. The constitutional aspect of the case appears to some more grave than it does to me. As regards the legal aspect, I do not admit there is any legal difficulty in to the country that the Conference by its vote choked off discussion on the Rev. Dr. Dewart said that while all question. (Applause.) Is that making honor of the Conference. (Applause.) the power within itself to decide Rev. Dr. Jeffers said many quarter- whether discussion shall go further or

Rev. Dr. Sanderson-I am remind ference or in the United General Con- speaker. It is in the recollection of the Conference that after several lead

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GREETING Rev. D the follow from the 'Exeter 45 against reading with loud and sang all blessi ed until t

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obtained.