

Although he was at that time chairman of a district, yet he was always known as (presiding) "Elder Ryerson," of Methodist Episcopal times. He was also always known as a safe and wise counsellor. And the Ryan schism, the Strachan controversy, and the hostile movements of the British Methodist missionaries in Upper Canada—which occurred during 1824-1832—called forth in him the highest and best of these qualities. As a solution of the latter difficulty, Rev. John Ryerson suggested and strongly urged the necessity of a union with the British Conference. His advice was followed; and the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, who had then won his spurs as Dr. Strachan's antagonist, and as Editor of The Christian Guardian, was deputed in 1833 (the year I came to Canada) to negotiate the union, which he successfully accomplished in that year.

This union only lasted seven years, and was dissolved in 1840. It was, however, renewed on a more lasting foundation seven years from that date—in 1847. Rev. John Ryerson was the principal negotiator of this latter union, to accomplish which he and the Rev. Anson Green were deputed to visit England in that year.

The causes which led to the disruption of the union in 1840 were partly financial and partly personal against Rev. Egerton Ryerson. Few only of the older Methodists of to-day will remember the memorable scene in the Canadian Conference of 1840, when so many of the ministers of that day separated themselves from each other, and into two bands—those who from early association and feeling adhered to the British Conference, and those who remained faithful to the Canadian Conference. This noted scene took place in the old Adelaide