

all the intimacy of a Pullman car half way across the continent, and thus learned to greatly love for his own sake the man whom we had before greatly honoured for his work's sake. If the late Ecumenical Conference may result, as we trust it may, in the organic union of the severed branches of English Methodism, it will be largely owing to the liberal spirit with which Dr. Stephenson responded to the overtures of the presidents of the other Methodist bodies.

We have pleasure in presenting herewith an excellent portrait of Dr. Stephenson, accompanied by a brief sketch of his philanthropic work from the pen of Mr. W. J. Forster:

Dr. T. Bowman Stephenson was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, where his father, a Wesleyan minister, was then residing. He was educated, first, at the Louth Grammar School; then at Wesley College, Sheffield, and finally at the London University, where he matriculated with honours, and subsequently took his B.A. degree. Having resolved to devote himself to the work of the ministry, Mr. Stephenson entered the Wesleyan College, at Richmond, for the purpose of studying theology. In due course he was appointed to a circuit, Norwich being his first field of labour. From thence he removed to Manchester, where he joined most heartily in the efforts for alleviating the suffering caused by the dreadful cotton famine. In 1868 Mr. Stephenson was appointed to Lambeth, and there he very soon became most painfully impressed with the amount of child-wretchedness which abounded in that part of the metropolis. This sympathy deepened and strengthened, until at last its burst into action.

Speaking of that period, he says:

"For months I had been going in and out amongst the wretchedness, vice, and crime that infest the neighbourhood of the notorious *New Cut*. And there I had become acquainted with comedies and tragedies in real life, the sight and sound of which brought to quick maturity the dreams and wishes, the vague purposes of many preceding years."

Little thinking to what an extent the work would develop, a very modest beginning was made by the taking of a small house, No. 8 Church Street, Waterloo Road. Two homeless lads were received into it at once, and were joined by two others before the close of the first week. In a short time the little house was full; a second house was taken, a stable at the back was transformed into a dining-room, and a hay-loft over it into a dormitory.

And so this Christian venture was now fairly launched! The object, at any rate, was sufficiently definite in its aim. To quote from the first report, it was "to shelter, feed, clothe, educate, train