

THE WESLEYAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1883.

UNION MOVES ON.

An Ontario paper speaks of a reaction in favor of Union. It is doubtful whether any such reaction has taken place. From the first, we believe, the great majority of the laymen of the Methodist Church of Canada have regarded Methodist Union as a measure about which there could scarcely be two opinions. It is, however, not only possible but probable that strong utterances of opposition through conventions and the press have tended to elicit from them a more emphatic expression of opinion than would otherwise have been given.

We note the fact with pleasure not unmingled with regret. In any advance movement pastors and people should march side by side. The place of the former is not at the rear, and if by any mischance they are found there, the Church must suffer loss. Each day, however, brightens the prospect that, in spite of dark forebodings and gloomy predictions, the great body of the ministry will be found at the post of honor.

The minister who may be disposed to marshal his official members at the rear will undertake a difficult task. At a day when even the farmer is learning that business may better be done by companies than by smaller bodies the wisdom of the union of scattered branches of a great Church, differing only on some points of polity, is scarcely questioned. And to any business man who can distinguish between partnership and absorption the proposed basis cannot but commend itself by its evident fairness and careful regard for the views of even the weakest of the consenting parties. The same may be said of the General Superintendency. A carefully-guarded superintendency is only the application of a principle in Church work which obtains in the management of nations, education, business, in fact, everywhere. That a minister should object to this, and speak in defiant tones of a proposed visit to his circuit only leads a thoughtful layman to look and wonder. Nor will he be alarmed by any of those terrible possibilities which some affect to see in what they term Episcopacy, when it exists in the absence of a life-term and a special ordination, and with limitations which cannot easily be set aside. And for the life of him that layman cannot see how, were it possible for him to be President of an Annual Conference, he would be "degraded" by the presence of a General Conference official.

We can by no means agree with those who regard Lay Delegation in the Annual Conferences as a great attraction to laymen. Few of them, we believe, have desired it, and that idea of a rush to the Annual Conference which is to cut up our present Conferences into scores, only creates a quiet smile on their part. But to beg them to stay out, or to bar the door against their entrance, or even to discuss that course is another thing. The Methodist layman who sees his Presbyterian brother or his Baptist neighbor accompanying their respective pastors to annual ecclesiastical gatherings will not easily see why he should be obliged to stay at home or take a seat below the bar of the Conference. Had English Methodist leaders been more ready to make concessions which they were finally forced to make, we should not now have an ado about the healing of breaches in the Colonies. Eren Mr. Kettlewell's elaborate figures have been discussed by laymen; and quietly laid aside with the remark that the losses following union with the New Connexion took place at a period of business depression which prostrated many a Methodist layman and supplied him with sad memories for a lifetime. In similar spirit our laymen will meet any good pastor who may appeal in behalf of the preservation of a special polity, as worth more than a United Church, with the quiet remark that, "change belongs to every age, and in be-

longing to ours it simply announces that the latest chapter in Methodist history has not been accomplished."

But, says a good brother, "If our lay friends lead on this movement they are so much the more bound to guarantee us against financial loss." This is true, and we commend the statement to their consideration, asserting meanwhile that no mercenary consideration, but only the welfare of those dependent upon them, has prompted the expression of fear in many quarters. On the other hand we suggest that sympathy may be checked and regard may be lessened by a lingering too far in the rear. Of the readiness of our laity to help in every good word and work the past has shown many instances. They will know that their pastors are not mercenary. Our Educational Institutions are a monument to Chas. F. Allison: our Home Mission Fund, now merged in General Conference funds, was the result of an interview between two citizens of Halifax, one a man of wealth, the other a man of deep legal knowledge. Our College Endowment has called forth noble gifts made by men during their lives, and not in their last will and testament; and we believe nothing will so conduce to real, practical generosity on the part of our brethren of the laity as their presence at our Annual Conferences. The communications of our ministers have shown their fears; we commend serious thought upon them to our Christian laymen. At the same time we may add that we recently overheard a minister, regarded as one of our best financiers, make the remark that no one can tell the precise influence of Union upon our finances, and that recent knowledge of some facts respecting some of the several uniting bodies had relieved his mind of serious doubts. That minister, by-the-by, can scarcely be quoted as a declared unionist.

MOUNT ALLISON.

The continued pressure on our columns, with the modesty of some of the managers at Mount Allison, has prevented recent notice of our Educational Institutions. One of the most interesting events has been the opening during the first week in January of the new Male Academy, an illustrated description of which was recently given. To the large number assembled, after religious services had been conducted by the Rev. Dr. Stewart, Rev. Dr. Pickard gave, as few or none could give, a sketch of the Institution from its formation through the beneficence of Chas. F. Allison, Esq. At the close of the address, the Rev. J. S. Phinney, President of the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference, formally dedicated the building to the service of God in the work of Christian education under the auspices of the Methodist Church of Canada. Principal Paisley's address was an able statement in reference to the intellectual and moral training which it will be the constant effort of the managers to impart. Other speakers on the occasion were Dr. Inch, President of the College, Revs. Dr. Stewart and Kennedy, and Rev. J. Cassidy. The Principal and his staff may well be congratulated on the ample facilities for carrying on their work. We are not at all surprised to learn that a large number of students is in attendance. A description of the new Memorial Hall has for some time been awaiting space for insertion. From a local paper we learn that the contract for its erection has already been awarded.

Our readers will have learned that the hand of an incendiary threatened destruction to the present College building, a blow which was happily averted after a loss of three hundred dollars on the burned gymnasium, and a further loss of two hundred dollars through injury to college and furniture. In the light of this event the decision of the Governors to erect the new building with stone will be seen to be wise.

When we add that an unusually large number of pupils is in attendance at the Ladies' Academy, our readers need not be told that a good degree of prosperity is being enjoyed by our workers at Sackville. In view of the past successes of Mount Allison students, we quote words uttered at Wesley College, Sheffield, England, by Mr. Mundella, Vice President of the Council of Education: "After all, with the greatest respect to our oldest universities, there can be no doubt that the test of the London University examination is the sever-

est test to which a young man's education can possibly be submitted." It is by this test, it will be remembered, that the candidates for the Gilchrist Scholarship are awarded their respective merits.

DEATH OF REV. R. TWEEDIE.

Last week we announced the death of this esteemed minister, who passed away peacefully, having been mercifully spared the suffering which sometimes immediately precedes dissolution. Mr. Tweedie belonged to one of those Methodist families which left Ireland many years ago to find a home on the South West Branch of the Miramichi, where, in the long absence of any pastor, they kept up with commendable care the social religious services of their previous home. From this worthy family three sons entered the Methodist ministry of the Lower Provinces, while a grandson has won a position of high honor among the students of the kingdom.

Our deceased brother entered the ministry in 1853. He was a man of stalwart frame, and a diligent worker in the fields to which he was appointed. Having followed him, at an extended interval, on the Shelburne circuit, the writer can testify of his great success in that town, where a revival attended his ministry which extended to other churches, and rendered his name very dear to many. In other places he was, we believe, generally successful and highly esteemed. Failing health obliged him several years since to become a supernumerary. Last summer he again reported himself for work and took charge of the Hillsburg circuit, till the return of a wasting disease or complication of diseases, soon obliged him to withdraw from it to Hampton, where he died. His son, Mr. L. B. Tweedie, of Moncton, was privileged to be in attendance on his father for several days before death.

Rev. T. J. DeinStadt, in a brief note respecting the funeral, which took place at Hampton on Tuesday last, says: "The service was held in the Methodist church. There was a large gathering, representing all the denominations in the community. The casket was placed in front of the communion rail, and on the lid were some beautiful floral designs. The pulpit was hung with black drapery. The following ministers participated in the service: Rev. S. W. Sprague, Joseph Sellar, A.M., James Crisp, D. D. Moore, A.M.; John C. Berrie and myself delivered addresses." From Mr. DeinStadt's address we hope to be able next week to give some extracts.

The widow and all the members of the stricken family may rest assured of the sympathy felt for them by the many friends, ministerial and lay, of the deceased husband and father.

Those Christian women who have labored so earnestly to maintain the Infant's Home in this city must have listened to the Eighth Annual Report of that Institution with no small degree of pleasure. During the year they have purchased the "Belvidere House" as a permanent location, at a cost of seven thousand dollars. For nearly four thousand dollars of this amount they are yet depending upon the public. We are glad to know that the gifts of the Churches are increasing from year to year. The proportion of deaths during the past year has been very small, only eleven per cent. We know of no similar institution in which the death rate has been so low. The ladies of the Committee make an earnest appeal to those who have "room for a little child in their hearts and homes" to adopt one. The annual meeting held last week was presided over by Rev. S. F. Huestis, and the report was read by Rev. R. Murray. Miss Nordbeck is Treasurer, and Mrs. E. M. Saunders, Secretary.

Messrs. Joseph Burrill and T. M. Lewis, of Yarmouth, are doing busy and effective work in the temperance cause in this city. It is a pleasure to feel that we can so cordially endorse both the work and the workers. There is great need of wise and earnest advocates of such character. It is a matter of regret that by arrangements, for which no one is to be blamed, this visit takes place at a time when our ministers are busily employed in revival services. Their hearts are in sympathy with these earnest temperance workers.

A few weeks ago we saw in the columns of the London Methodist an extensive and most favorable review of Rev. Paxton Hood's new *Life of Cromwell*, and now we have that work before us in paper covers, but in clean type on good paper, at a cost of only twenty-five cents—a first-class work at cheap fiction prices! At the same time the publishers, Messrs Funk and Wagnall, of New York, take care to pay the foreign author or publisher. The English edition costs nearly two dollars. This attempt to furnish cheap reading of the best character for the masses is worthy of the support of all who know what a terrible amount of evil is the result of worthless reading. This work may be commended without hesitation. As we have before remarked, our Book Steward, Rev. S. F. Huestis is the agent for all the publications of the above house in the Maritime Provinces.

In another column Rev. W. H. Hartz gives us a few notes of a wonderful life. In a private note he remarks: "Incidents of great suggestiveness are connected with his life, and his record of over forty years is untarnished, causing even neglectors of God and religion to speak in unqualified terms of his religion." Ought not the incidents of a long Christian life, begun strangely on board a ship of war—supposed generally to be the last place for finding Christ—and ended with such precious words of triumph, to be most carefully preserved and made known to the world. Who will undertake the task? Properly and wisely done it would perpetuate Capt. Crosby's work.

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNION.

THE TERMS: WHAT ARE WE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT? It seems that we are asked to give up for the sake of union nothing we hold essential or sacred. That is certainly satisfactory. But what are we asked to accept as conditions of union? We are asked to accept an extended General Superintendency, and Lay Delegation in Annual Conferences, equal numerically with the ministerial membership thereof. These conditions are not acceptable to some good men among us. Why then are they proposed to us? Because Union depends, so far as we are concerned, on their acceptance. They are the concessions sought from us in behalf of Union. Concessions! Why should concessions be demanded from us? Are we not by far the most powerful and important body? Why should not our brethren of the other Methodist bodies bow down at our feet and make an unconditional surrender? They have not been subjugated by us. They are not the captives of our bow and sword. They are our brethren. They share our lineage. They are at one with us on all important points. They want to dwell with us on equal terms honorably in unity. They are ready to make reasonable concessions for the sake of unity. The basis of Union embraces the concessions found necessary.

BRANTFORD, ONT.

A meeting of the members of the official Boards of the Wellington St., Brant Avenue, and Oxford street churches of Brantford, was held on Friday, the 26th ult., in the Wellington street church, to consider the basis of union. The Rev. Manly Benson, of Brant Avenue Church, was, on motion of Rev. W. J. Maxwell, seconded by Rev. Thos. Boyd, appointed chairman, and M. S. Smith, Esq., of Riverside, secretary. There were present some fifty official members of the three churches.

After the basis had been gone over, item by item, and fully discussed, the following resolutions were adopted: Moved by His Honor Judge Jones, seconded by Capt. G. H. Young: That this meeting is strongly convinced that a union of all the Methodist bodies of this country would greatly strengthen and promote the work of the Church, not only in the saving of money now unprofitably expended in divided and often rival work, but in promoting brotherly love and united Christian effort.—Carried. Moved by Wm. Wilkinson, Esq., M.A., seconded by Dr. Lowrey: That in such a union we recognize the fact that each of the uniting bodies must be prepared to make concessions to reach a common basis of union that would be acceptable to all.—Carried.

Moved by D. Plewes, Esq., seconded by John Mann, Esq.: That this meeting of the Quarterly Boards of the three Methodist circuits in this city, having met and examined the basis of the Union, approve of the same and recommend it for adoption by our Quarterly Boards here at their February meeting. We also beg to tender our thanks to the Union Committee for their painstaking and successful differences of the Methodist Family in the Dominion.—Carried unanimously.

OUTSIDE VIEWS.

The Western Christian Advocate has this: It is exceedingly gratifying to us to record in these columns the fact that at the special session recently held, at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada has by a large majority vote approved, *seriatim*, and as a whole, the articles comprised in the Union Basis which had been drawn up and agreed to by the joint committee representing the four Methodist bodies in Canada. \* \* \* The articles of the basis having been agreed to by the General Conference, they were sent to the quarterly conferences for approval. The *Canada Christian Advocate* does not seem to us to be so happy, or perhaps we ought to say, not so enthusiastic, as it might well be over the progress of the union project itself. But the tendency of the age, we are glad to note, is steadily in favor of the unification of religious bodies, holding the same doctrines. Questions of polity are questions of expediency that can be attended to at any time, and ought not to be barriers to union. We hope the other Canadian branches of Methodism will do as well for union as the Methodist Episcopal branch has.

On the subject of Union the Montreal *Witness* remarks:— Happily for the cause of union there are no diversities of doctrine to separate them. All accept John Wesley as their founder, and Wesley's sermons and notes as their standards of doctrine. All delight, too, in the inimitable and inspiring hymns of the Wesleys, all observe nearly the same forms and methods of worship, and all equally hold to the great doctrines of the necessity of the new "birth," or conversion, justification, sanctification and—baptizing. Where nothing thus separates such great bodies of Christians but the forms of church government, and these are considered not "essentials" but rather matters of convenience and advantage in promoting the work, it is not to be expected any insurmountable difficulties will arise to union now that its importance and desirability have become recognized by all. The Methodist Church united in Canada will become the largest, most powerful, and we believe the most wealthy Protestant Church in the Dominion.

It is much to be said for the provision judged on its merits. The participation under the Constitution and of right in the proceedings of the Annual Conferences by a General Superintendent may strengthen the Connexional principle, as any one may see. That is a principle worth conserving and fostering. The General Superintendent will always be an able man, and sometimes a man of genius. His participation in Annual Conference proceedings will enhance their interest, and his public appearances on such occasions cannot fail to prove an attractive feature in the eye of the general public. But might not a conflict occur between the rulings of the alternate occupants of the Annual Conference chair? Not if they should be able men of sense, well posted in Connexional law and usages. The General Superintendent will assuredly be such a man. He will be chosen for his proved fitness for his position. What would such a man be likely to do on a mere passing point of order? Would he be likely to pick a quarrel without sense or reason with the Conference or its President? Would he be likely to invite impeachment for tyrannical conduct in the Chair? Not in the least.

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNION.

THE TERMS: WHAT ARE WE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT?

Suppose his ruling on some Connexional law coming up should be disapproved by the Annual Conference President? Well, ten to one the General Superintendent's ruling in the case would be right. Connexional law would be one of his chief studies. But on some vital point his judgment might be at fault, and his decision appealed against. Granted. What then? The Court of Appeal, composed of some of the best men in the respective Conferences, and jealous and zealous for their rights, might be trusted to decide wisely and justly. But would not the offending General Superintendent preside over the Court and dictate the decision? He could not dictate. He could if present reason for no more than that of any other member of the Court. There is no certainty, and no reasonable probability that he would be judge in his own case. His colleague, if he had one, might preside, or for the occasion the Court might select one of its members to occupy its chair for the time. At all events, I see no reason for fearing that the Court would not decide righteously.

It should be borne in mind that the General Superintendent will have no power to select either the time or place for the meeting of an Annual Conference, and that the validity of its doings will in nowise depend on his presence. Calmly surveying the whole question, I see no reason whatever for withholding this concession for the sake of union to our Methodist Episcopal brethren for a boon likely to prove of priceless value. Are there good reasons for withholding the other concessions sought from us? We shall see. MELANCTHON.

OUR QU.

In reply received from One hundred and fifty in favor of individual and a hundred and thirty in favor of Boards united.

Mr. Ed. over the of Union around question and we are attack and ing warm moters and that of a tween the Presi ence "is" ble, and that as it possible is. The illust of law by for its lack Court in occupy the days. An able thing would not court who preme. I Council as pealed to Judge and moment ed be appealed the two sit nothing at cases which placed side only points clearly stat slict of au mittee has the rights a Mr. S. will illustration not assist scheme is v verse, and v commit our waters up launch.

Annapolis

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