

We have been greatly encouraged in this business by the action of the Home Authorities. The decision of our last Conference having been made known to the General Committee in London, that Committee replied in such terms as afford good evidence that our Fathers and Brethren of the English Conference fully understand the situation of affairs with us, and in the most kindly spirit address us by resolution thus :—

“We take the opportunity first of all to reciprocate with unfeigned sincerity the affection and goodwill expressed by our Canadian brethren towards our Church in the fatherland, and to record our sorrow and regret at the not improbable severance of the ecclesiastical bonds by which we have been so long and so harmoniously united; we cannot however, fail to see and acknowledge how forceful are the reasons they assign in favour of Methodist unification, based chiefly on the difficulty of maintaining so many sections of the Methodist family in the sparsely populated districts of Canada, and of the migratory habits of the people; and as there appears what we cannot but regard as unmistakable evidence of a strong and general leaning towards Methodist unification among our ministers and people, we are of opinion, after maturely considering the question in its various bearings, that it would be unwise on our part to offer any opposition, providing the process of unification be conducted and consummated on fair and honourable terms, as we have reason to believe they will be.”

The above is but a part of the resolution passed by the Committee, and which we doubt not will be confirmed by the English Conference.

Should the present proposals for Union be successful, we trust that none of you will allow any personal objections, or local prejudices, to prevent your acceptance of what has been done on your behalf with the best intentions, but that you will in every case, and by every means in your power, endeavour to make the Union a grand success in the name of our Lord and Master whose blessing we should earnestly implore that wisdom from above may be granted.

We have also adopted plans by which, when found necessary, the financial aspect of this business will be laid before you, and your co-operation asked to enable our Church to meet its share of the financial burden this Union involves; and we trust that a very liberal and hearty response will be given, especially by those God has prospered in the world.

In conclusion, we implore you not to allow the union movement or anything else to lesson in any measure your attachment to Christ or to His Church on earth. By the diligent use of every means of grace—private prayer, family devotion, and public worship—seek to maintain that vital union with Christ which is indispensable to a happy personal experience, and to a useful Christian life.

Signed on behalf of the Conference,

WILLIAM HERRIDGE, *President.*

ROBERT CADE, *Secretary.*

R.H.B.
21.9.15