

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE UNION MOVEMENT

The negotiations that have lately been entered into, looking to an organic union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in the Dominion of Canada, had their origin in the efforts that have been put forth during the last three years to prevent, as far as possible, any unseemly rivalry and any waste of men and means in the Mission work that is being carried on by these different Churches, especially in the newer districts of the country.

At the annual meeting of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in March, 1899, it was resolved to recommend the General Assembly to appoint a small committee to act in conjunction with similar committees that might be appointed by the supreme courts of other evangelical bodies in determining the proper course to be pursued in any alleged case of overlapping in Home Mission work.

This recommendation was acted upon by the General Assembly at its meeting in June, 1899, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. Dr. Warden, Rev. D. E. D. McLaren, Rev. Dr. Somerville, Rev. J. W. Macmillan, and Messrs Robert Kilgour and John Penman, "to meet and confer with representatives from other evangelical Churches, having power to enter into any arrangement with them that will tend to bring about a more satisfactory state of things in our Home Mission Fields, so that the overlapping now complained of may be prevented."

The action taken by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was communicated to the authorities of the Methodist Church by Dr. Warden, the Convener of the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee; and the General Conference, acting on a memorial presented by N. W. Rowell, Esq., resolved:

"That the General Board of Missions be authorized and directed to appoint a committee to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Presbyterian Church, with a view of devising a plan whereby Home Mission Work can be carried on in friendly co-operation."

In accordance with this resolution the General Board of Missions at a meeting held on the 26th of September appointed the following commit-