

official member should inform himself of the real merits of the case without delay, so that he may be in a position to give an independent and intelligent vote. Let every such member carefully read the basis as finally adopted and published, until he thoroughly understands just what changes are proposed, and what the effect of those changes is likely to be. The final effect of the vote to be given no man can fully foresee. But this much we know, that he who votes for Union, does what in him lies to remove a standing reproach from Methodism and a hindrance from the cause of God; while he who votes adversely, votes to perpetuate the estrangements, the rivalries, the waste of men and money, that has characterized the past. It would be folly to suppose that any basis could be prepared that would fully meet the views of every one. The question is not, therefore, Is the present basis perfect? but, Are the objections to it of sufficient weight to lead us to reject it altogether? Let it be clearly understood, the basis now before the Church cannot be accepted or rejected *in part*;—as a whole it stands or falls, and upon its adoption or rejection by the Churches depends the fate of Union. Some will think otherwise. They will say, If the present basis is rejected, another can be formed. Doubtless another *can* be formed, but no one for a moment believes that it *will*.

*On Whom Rests the Chief Responsibility?*

Although the Basis of Union is to be discussed and voted upon in the various Quarterly Meetings, there can be no doubt that the chief responsibility rests upon the Ministry of the uniting Churches, because upon the attitude they assume, the fate of the Union movement largely depends. There is nothing in the Basis of Union which infringes upon the rights and privileges of the laity, and hence nothing to which they are likely to take strong exception. But as we have heard prominent laymen remark more than once, much will depend on the way in which the subject is brought before the Quarterly Meetings. If the Minister takes a hostile attitude, it will greatly influence the vote. Our official members, as a rule, treat the opinions and wishes of their Ministers with respect, and it