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METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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afforded of promoting Methodist unity by opening fraternal relations with your branch of the great Methodist family. Sympathizing most heartily with the sentiment of our revered founder, that "the Methodists are ONE all over the world," we desire to strengthen the uniting bond, and would therefore greet, as brethren beloved, all who hold fast the essential principles of Methodist doctrine, discipline and usage.

Although we have had no opportunity, hitherto, as a General Conference, of receiving any official communication from you, we are glad to assure you that your works of faith and labors of love have not been altogether unknown to us. We have marked your earnest endeavors to extend the Redeemer's kingdom both at home and abroad, and have rejoiced in the success that has crowned your efforts. And since, in the orderings of Divine Providence, our General Conference now embraces what was hitherto the Canadian branch of the Methodist New Connexion, we feel that this is an especial reason why fraternal relations, similar to those which unite us to other Conferences, should be opened and maintained between your Church and ours.

The measures which have been under consideration for several years for the consolidation of Methodism in this Dominion, have been crowned with gratifying success. Three distinct bodies of Methodists have united their forces under the name of "The Methodist Church of Canada." The full significance of this movement can be rightly estimated only by those who, living among us, understand the magnitude of the work before us as a Church, and the importance of united effort in providing for the spiritual necessities of the rapidly-increasing population of our country.

When the proposals for union began to take definite shape among us, it was clearly foreseen that they involved extensive changes in the policy of the uniting bodies, and fears were entertained by some that those changes would result disastrously to the peace of the churches concerned. Those fears, we are glad to say, have been entirely dissipated.