

cussion, the opinion of Mr. James Bethune, Q.C., based upon a case submitted by a private member of the Conference, was also read. Preliminaries being thus disposed of, the way was open for the main question, and the battle was fairly joined. It was not to be expected that anything new in the way of argument would be advanced. In newspaper controversy and Conference debates every phase of the question had been gone over many times; but the interest felt in the measure was so great that old arguments were listened to as eagerly as if heard for the first time, and sentiments that had been worn threadbare by frequent repetition received generous recognition.

The order of the day having been called, the Rev. A. Sutherland, Secretary of the Joint Committee on Union, arose amid profound silence and strained attention to move the adoption of the basis. The motion, which was seconded by Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., was as follows:

"Whereas this Conference, at its session in the city of Hamilton in September 1882, adopted certain resolutions affirming the desirableness of an organic union of the various Methodist churches in the Dominion, and did appoint a committee to meet in joint session with similar committees appointed by the Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian Churches, for the purpose of preparing, if possible, a basis of union to be afterwards submitted to the quarterly boards and Conferences of the negotiating churches for approval or otherwise:

"And whereas this Conference agreed to meet at the call of the President, if there were received from two thirds of the quarterly meetings and a majority of the