

Presidents on the Statistics of the Conferences, there will be laid before the Conference Reports from Special Boards and Committees, as the Commission on the Children's Fund appointed by the last General Conference, the Commission on University Consolidation, the Committee on the celebration of the Centennial of American Methodism, and possibly of other committees, officers, deputations, or delegates appointed to specific work, and from which it would contribute to the interests of the Church for the General Conference to have reports of work done. To expedite business we think it well to have all reports brought in at once, and referred to their respective committees provided by this body, that these committees may report their proposed legislation to this Conference at the earliest practicable date. There will be a Report from the Court of Appeal. During the Quadrennium there have been but two cases calling for the action of said Court; but as the Court could be convened only at great trouble and expense, the General Superintendents made efforts to have the matters at issue arranged till this General Conference. A meeting of the Court is called for an early day in this session of the General Conference, and its report will come duly to this body. It appears to us that all the requirements supposed to be met by the Court of Appeal would be fully met without much trouble or expense, if some competent authority, as the Board of General Superintendents, were invested with power to decide law questions that arise during the Quadrennium, with obligation to record such decisions, and subject to review at the succeeding General Conference. We are convinced also that it would contribute very much to the uniformity of the administration of our Discipline in the Annual Conferences and throughout the work, if the several Annual Conference Journals were brought under review at the General Conference, and questions of law and administration therein harmonized. We are further of the opinion that it would much facilitate the management of our various Church funds, and promote their efficiency, if it were an early instruction from this Conference to the heads of our various financial departments, with such aid as the Conference might give them, to confer at once, broadly and freely, on these very important interests, and report at an early day to this Conference such scheme or schemes to improve the condition, control, and management of our funds as the gathered experience of the past and the demands of the present and future may suggest. We deem it desirable not to have too many connexional claims or too few, lest, on the one hand, our energies be distracted or dissipated; or, on the other, inefficiently or disproportionately developed. The field of effort should be so distributed that the various enterprises and funds of the Church be rather helpful than harmful one to the other. One interest, however important, should not be urged to the prejudice or sacrifice of any other or all others. We do not think it desirable for

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