

Methodist Episcopal delegates. When the conclusion was reached, a profound sense of relief was experienced. No one regarded the vote as, in any sense, a personal or party triumph, but each seemed to regard it as a decision to which they had been led in the fear of God. There was no noisy applause; but pent-up emotions found vent in the strains of the grand old Doxology, and then the Committee adjourned for the night.

### *Lay Representation.*

On the question of Lay Representation in the Annual Conferences, it seemed necessary that three out of the four uniting Churches should change front a little. The Methodist Church of Canada and the Methodist Episcopal Church have each lay representation in the General Conference, but none in the Annual; the Bible Christians have ministers and laymen in equal numbers in the Annual Conference; while the Primitive Methodists have two laymen for each minister in that assembly. Where a General Conference exists, the functions of an Annual Conference are necessarily very limited. It has no authority to legislate, and a large part of its business is of a routine sort, dealing with matters of ministerial character, qualification, and work. In view of these facts, there was a somewhat general opinion in the Committee that lay representation in the Annual Conferences would be a doubtful good, and would be lightly esteemed by the laymen themselves. But the laymen in two of the Churches had been accustomed to sit in the Annual Conferences, and there was reason to fear that in these two Churches Union could not be carried unless lay representation, in some form, was conceded. At first it was proposed that the representation should be very limited—two or three from a District, but it was felt that this was merely playing with the question, and if there was to be lay representation at all it must be in equal numbers with ministers. In this form the recommendation eventually carried.

### *Church Funds.*

The only other question of serious moment was that relating to Church funds. Some of these were quickly settled. The