

ities and responsibilities. We are anxious to be right and safe ourselves, and we are anxious they should be right and safe. The Lord protect and guide us all. In all our deliberations let us wait humbly and earnestly upon God. I have said this is my only hope of Union; and it is the one direction of my desire to receive it in this way. I expect it, I seek for it, I want it in no other way. When I look at the ways of the world, and the narrowness, ignorance, prejudice, selfishness, pride and worldliness manifested in human counsels and affairs, when I remember the power of party spirit, bigotry, and the satisfaction of a little revenge, even in renewed hearts, and in Christian society; when I remember the false views we get of once asserted right, the obstinacy with which we maintain cherished opinions, and the reluctance with which we yield them, when I think of the suspicion and fear with which we are apt to regard others' advancement, and the haughtiness and conceit with which we are apt to make our own; when I think how the unkind words and acts of others rankle in our souls and stir us to hatred, while we imagine our own should be passed over or forgotten, when I think what, this human heart is, and what the mind is under the influence of this heart, and when I review the histories of the Methodisms of this Dominion, humanly speaking, I say Methodist Union here is an impossibility. If ever accomplished peacefully and well, it shall certainly be of God. So that as in the guidance of the children of Israel to the promised land, while on the one hand none but the great God could do it, on the other hand its accomplishment was the demonstration that it was of God. Yet the people passed through all its stages waiting upon God in obedience and faith. And so they proved the will and owned the power of God.

We are now led out into the midst of agitation for Union. Perhaps no one here is to blame for it. Perhaps no one here can claim the credit of it. We seem to be here providentially. Our beloved Zion certainly needs not to be ashamed of her history. She has sturdily and amid great sacrifice contended for imperishable principles, and left her impress upon the political and religious character of this country. She has no apology to offer to men for her existence and work. She fought for the freedom of Church from State, and this has been achieved. She fought for the voluntary support of the Gospel ministry and this has been achieved. She fought for the ecclesiastical rights of those that were called dissenters to perform the ordinances and enjoy the immunities of religion, and these have been secured. She fought for the civil and political liberties of this people, and they have been established and maintained. She contended, labored and suffered in the midst of the segregating influences around her for a solid Church government, with a vigorous central authority, such as John Wesley recommended to the Methodists of America in order to the perpetuation and purity of the gospel ministry and the security and orderly proceeding of the Holy Sacraments among the people, and the style of government has been recognized, vindicated and honored. These principles she can never desert. By them she must stand or perish. Now the question is upon her whether she shall best proclaim the doctrines of our holy religion, preserve the sacraments to the people, promote the glory of God and the liberty and happiness of mankind by continuing in her separate existence as the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, or by uniting with the other Methodist bodies of the country for the propagation of the same doctrines and the perpetuation of the same principles, liberties and rights. With the opening North-West and the Divine and providential indications and calls from heathen lands, which is the better way? Shall we be restricted to this Province or this Dominion: or, uniting with others, seek the ends of the earth to carry our principles thither?

Since my General Conference, and therefore my Church, have so often declared for Union—though personally having never advocated union, and hitherto perhaps not so strongly in favor of it as I ought to have been—and since what I believe a rational and fair basis of compromise has been found, I think we ought now to prepare for Union. And when I review what the other bodies have yielded of their cherished ideas and principles, and especially call to mind how the Methodist brethren of the Eastern Provinces, who apparently have nothing to gain by Union, in a spirit of love