

the number was absent through sickness, and, of the remaining sixteen, eight were known to be opposed to the contemplated Union.*

The Resolution to supersede Episcopacy by an Annual Presidency was then taken up, and ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY OF MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS. After which the Conference adjourned.

The Annual Conference having re-assembled, the Secretary reported the concurrence of the General Conference in the resolution to relinquish Episcopacy. The Annual Conference then appointed the Rev. Egerton Ryerson their Representative, with instructions to proceed to England and confer with the British Conference on the subject of the proposed Union. On receiving this appointment, Mr. Ryerson immediately published the Conference Resolutions in the columns of the *Christian Guardian*, and requested the Presiding Elders—at that time four in number—to inform him of the state of feeling on their respective Districts, in reference to the proposed changes. Before leaving for England, in March, 1833, Mr. Ryerson had interviews with two of the Presiding Elders, and received written communications from the other two, from which he learned that the proposed Union was, with very few exceptions, heartily approved by the members of the Church.

The overtures of the Canadian Conference, presented by Mr. Ryerson, were received by the Parent Body with the liveliest satisfaction, and warmly supported by several of the leading members of the Conference. The Rev. Mr. Beecham, at the conclusion of an able speech, in which he reviewed the leading facts bearing upon the question, read the Address of the Canada Conference, proposing a Union with the English body. He was followed by the Rev. Jabez Bunting, who strongly advocated the proposed Union as desirable for the interests of our common Methodism, our common Christianity, and our common Empire. The proposals for Union were then carefully considered, and the views of the English Conference embodied in a series of resolutions differing but slightly from those of the Canada Conference. The Conference appointed the Revs. George Marsden and Joseph Stinson as their Representatives, with power to carry out the arrangements thus happily inaugurated.

The delegation reached Canada a few days before the assembling of the Conference, which met at York on the 2nd of October, 1833. After some preliminary business, the Address and Resolutions of the English Conference were submitted, and the Rev. Mr. Marsden addressed the Conference on the subject of his mission, giving an account of what had taken place in England on the subject of Union, and assuring them of the deep interest felt in the question by the English preachers. Mr. Ryerson also presented and read the report of his mission to England. The portion of the Address

* It is in the last degree strange that any one should object to the action of the General Conference in admitting these seventeen Elders-elect. Had they been *excluded*, there would have been good reason for complaint, because seventeen out of the fifty-one Elders who had been received into full connexion, would thereby have been prevented from expressing their views, by vote or otherwise, on the important question before the Conference. Their admission was a simple act of justice to the brethren themselves, while it secured a fuller expression of opinion in reference to the proposed Union.