

greatly retard the cause of Christ in that section of our country. Furthermore, that a united Church would be a saving of means and of men, would work with greater efficiency and success, and would accomplish more than could be accomplished by separate organizations.

In the summer of 1882 this question largely engaged the attention of the Conferences of the Methodist Church in Canada, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, the Primitive Methodist Church and the Bible Christian Church. A "Basis" was found, which met with approval of all the Churches, and in this General Conference we have given effect to the wishes of our people, and have formulated a discipline and system of government in harmony with the Basis of Union. From this action of the Churches, which has been taken after due deliberation and prayer, we expect the most blessed results to the Church and to our country. The causes of irritation and rivalry being removed, the Church will be better prepared for aggressive movements upon all forms of error and sin. Knowing that the substance of the teaching is of more importance than the form of the Church's administration, we have taken care to provide not only for the teaching of the vital doctrines which are common to the Christian Church, but also for those which are characteristic of Methodism as interpreted by Mr. Wesley, and have provided in our trust deed for the perpetuation of those doctrines in all time to come.

In association with the representative laymen in our Conferences, we expect to perfect means for grander and more effective action for the evangelization of our country, and to take part in the great enterprise of extending the kingdom of God in lands where He is not known. We feel sure that in our efforts to secure a united Methodism in our land, we have been directed by that Divine Providence which has guided the Church in the past.

The Methodist Church will comprise 10 Annual Conferences, 1,633 ministers and probationers, 169,803 members, and 2 General Superintendents; 3,159 churches, 877 parsonages, and church property valued at 9,130,807 dollars; 2,707 Sunday Schools, 22,434 teachers, 175,052 scholars, 18,000 of whom meet in class.

Our Missionary Society is doing a noble work in every part of the Dominion. In the sparsely settled sections of the country, among the fishermen of Newfoundland, the French population of Quebec, the Indians of the woods and the prairie, and in Japan, we are endeavoring in our measure to provide religious instruction, and we are encouraged by the zeal and liberality of our Churches, and by evident tokens of the divine approval. Our Book Room and Publishing interests are in a state of prosperity and increasing in usefulness, which we expect will be greatly augmented by the union of the Churches.

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