

Minutes of General Assembly, 1915

The following recommendations which were adopted by the Presbyterian Committee on Union (See Minutes 1915, page 294), were embodied in the form of a motion by Dr. W. J. Clark and presented to the General Assembly as follows:—(See 1915 Minutes, page 41).

1. "Whereas the action of the General Assembly with regard to Union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches has been as follows:—
2. In 1904 the Assembly unanimously accepted the invitation given in 1902 by the General Conference of the Methodist Church to enter on negotiations for the Organic Union of said Church with the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, and to this end appointed a committee to confer with similar committees of the other Churches. Subsequent Assemblies approved the results of the labours of the Joint Committee thus constituted until 1910 when the General Assembly approved the completed basis of Union prepared by the Joint Committee and transmitted it to Presbyteries for their judgment under the Barrier Act. The Assembly of 1911, finding that said basis had been approved by a majority of Presbyteries sent down the whole question to Sessions and Congregations.

The action of the Assembly in 1912 was—

"The Assembly rejoices at the large measure of agreement among the negotiating churches which the proceedings of these recent years disclose and which, it believes will prepare the way for a larger measure of union among Christ's people in this land than at present exists.

"The Assembly believes that the fact that a large majority of those voting have declared themselves in favour of the organic union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches is a strong indication that the ultimate result of the present movement will be the consummation of such a union and pledges itself to do all in its power to maintain and deepen the unity of spirit which has marked the course of the negotiations, and to continue to promote the fraternal intercourse and conference with the other Churches which have made the present vote possible.

"In view, however, of the extent of the minority which is not yet convinced that organic union is the best method of expressing the unity sincerely desired by all, the Assembly deems it unwise to immediately proceed to consummate the union, but believes that by further conference and discussion practically unanimous action can be secured within a reasonable time.