

if they could rally a sufficient minority, to block the whole movement at the eleventh hour. When the Conference assembled this anticipation was fully realised, and it was evident that the subject that had already been threshed out to the last straw would have to be gone over again, and subjected to the test of another vote. Further discussion might properly have been resisted on technical grounds, and there were some who thought that further discussion was out of order, as the Conference had been called together "to give effect to the union"; but the union leaders judged it best to concede the demand for free discussion, so that no possible ground of complaint might remain.

In accordance with the decision of the General Conference of 1882, the special session was held in the Bridge Street Church in the city of Belleville, and began on the 5th of September 1883. As the basis of union was the only subject that could be discussed, it was thought that preliminaries could be quickly disposed of; but quite a number of technical objections were raised, and discussion on these occupied the whole of the first day. During these discussions a resolution was adopted that the basis of union be the order of the day at ten o'clock the following morning, and notice was given that at that time a resolution would be moved to accept and ratify the said basis. When the Conference assembled on Thursday 6th September, the President—Rev. Dr. Rice—made a general statement respecting apprehended legal difficulties, and the steps which he had taken to secure competent legal advice. The Secretary of the Conference then read the opinion of Mr. John E. Rose, Q.C. After further dis-