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Dwight Rice, D.D., has died. In ripeness of years, in full vigor of his powers, beloved of the brethren and revered and honored of the Church, he closed his noble and useful life at his residence in the city of Toronto, on the 15th day of December, 1884. Having earnestly labored for the union of the Methodist Churches of this country, filled with joy and fired with zeal at the prospect to his vision before the united Church, he longed for more years of labor and sacrifice in the Church of his love. He beheld grand opportunities that his ardent, courageous soul was eager to seize; wherefore, while passing away in the peace and holy triumph of Christian faith, he was slow to accept the conviction that it was indeed the will of God his work on earth was done. In his death the Church militant has undoubtedly lost a heroic leader of her enterprises, a firm advocate of her principles, a faithful defender and expounder of her doctrines, and a fearless and conscientious administrator of her Discipline. This Conference will likely direct and conduct a religious service the better to perpetuate among us his precious memory, and the more deeply to impress upon our minds and hearts the lessons of his faithful service, useful life, and peaceful death.

On the decease of the Rev. Dr. Rice, who had been elected to the General Superintendency for the full term of eight years, the Special Committee of the General Conference was called to consider the new and unexpected circumstances into which, in the providence of God, the Church had been brought, and to make what provision it might deem necessary to guard the interests of the Church in the premises, and promote the measures and enactments of the General Conference. As the report of the General Conference Special Committee will show, that committee on the 15th day of December, 1884, appointed the Rev. John A. Williams, Doctor of Divinity, to be General Superintendent of the Methodist Church—*ad interim*—in the room and place of the Rev. Samuel Dwight Rice, D.D., deceased. The General Conference Special Committee, having decided that it was expedient and important to fill the vacancy in the General Superintendency caused by the death of Dr. Rice, ascertained that it had power either to call a Special General Conference with relation to the matter, or possibly, from the general terms in which its own powers are given in the Discipline, to proceed itself with the election. In view of the expense and trouble incident to a call of the General Conference, the recent session of that body in 1883, and the proximity of the next session in 1886, it decided upon the latter alternative, and proceeded itself to elect and appoint. Besides the Report of the General Conference Special Committee, and the usual Reports of the Connexional Boards and Standing Committees and Printing and Publishing Interests, Missions, Schools and Colleges, Sabbath-school Work, and Superannuation and Supernumerary Funds, and of the Annual Conference.