

from the right, are the ex-president, Bowman Stephenson, W. L. Watkinson, Dr. Riggs, Mr. Allen, and another whom we do not recognize. The opposition of Mr. Allen to immediate advance towards Methodist union is humorously depicted in our small cartoon. The military figure is supposed to represent the rank and file of the Conference who have some hope of reaching the presidency.



CARRYING THE MARSHAL'S BATON IN HIS KNAPSACK.

"He might hope to encourage some of his brethren in the ministry by affording an illustration of the truth of Napoleon's saying that every common soldier carried the marshal's baton in his knapsack." THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

NEW "CONNEXIONAL EDITOR" OF BRITISH WESLEYANISM.

The election of Rev. Dr. William T. Davison as connexional editor of the British Wesleyan Methodist Church, is an item of news which deserves more than ordinary emphasis. He takes the place of honour and usefulness occupied for the past few years by the eloquent Rev. Dr. W. L. Wat-

kinson, who has been forced by broken health into retirement. Dr. Davison is fifty-seven years of age, and for the past dozen years has been occupying with distinction the chair of theology in the Wesleyan College at Handsworth, Birmingham. For the previous ten years he was professor of Biblical literature in Richmond College, near London. He entered the pastorate in 1868, and in 1901 obtained the crowning honour of his denomination, the Presidency of the Conference. He visited this country in 1891, and was heard with delight and profit as one of the speakers at the Ecumenical Conference held in Washington in that year. He was also one of the speakers at the ensuing meeting of the same kind in London in 1901. As an exegete, a careful and well equipped theologian, in touch with his time in advanced scholarship, and an expert in regard to all the questions which modern Biblical inquiry has raised, Wesleyan Methodism has no man who is his superior. The rank which he occupies in the estimation of other denominations may be suggested by the fact that he is one of the contributors to that massive work, Hastings' "Bible Dictionary," the remarkable article on "The Psalms" being from his pen, as well as other contributions. He has written half a dozen volumes of sermons, theological studies, and ethical essays.

Some of the utterances of Dr. Davison may be profitably cited in order to show his views on certain controverted subjects. In his address in Washington, at the Ecumenical Conference, October 10th, 1891, he said :

It must be admitted that the higher criticism—including especially the historical and literary criticism of the Bible—is now rapidly advancing toward, if it has not already reached, the position of a science, with conclusions of a highly important and more or less certain kind, which all religious teachers are bound to know, to face, and frankly and fairly to handle. . . . These results reached within certain definite limits must not be ignored, still less must they be denied and anathematized by those who are unable or unwilling to study the evidence in support of them. . . . The Methodist Churches and all the Churches of Christ which reverence God's Word written and seek to make it the rule of faith and practice, will do well to beware of blindly and rashly setting their faces against the conclusions of truly scientific Biblical criticism. We must not pledge ourselves to what may soon prove be untenable positions, or dare to identify them with the