

cordant elements and not so merely mechanical a cohesion. It seems that many of the trust-deeds of the old Wesleyan chapels confer the power of appointing the district preachers on the trustees and "class-leaders" of the particular district chapels. On the other hand, as these trust-deeds distinctly recognise the spread of Wesleyan Methodism as the great object to the advancement of which these chapels are dedicated, and as John Wesley towards the close of his career himself established the Conference and conferred on *it* the general power of appointing these District Preachers throughout the Wesleyan body, it has been contended that the old trust-deeds which vest the power of appointment in the trustees of particular chapels must be overridden by the more general trust which they contain for the benefit of the whole denomination, and must be subject, therefore, to those later developments of the Wesleyan organisation which have transferred this power to a central Conference. This was the view taken in the lower court by the Vice-Chancellor, who held that to leave the appointment of the district preachers in the hands of the trustees of particular chapels was destructive of the whole system of Wesleyan organisation in the shape which was given to it even by Wesley himself towards the end of his career. The Vice-Chancellor had, therefore, decided in favour of the Conference that all such special trusts were overridden by the latter-developed rule which gives the right of appointment to the central body. This decision has, however, been reversed by the Lord Chancellor, who points out that as the original trust-deeds (in the case of the Birstal District in Yorkshire) were repeatedly renewed in their primitive shape without any relation to the cen-