

followed their convictions of duty. But when the doxology had been sung and the benediction pronounced, the tension relaxed. The audience broke up into groups, tongues were loosed, and congratulations, thanksgivings, and hearty hand-shakes (some of the most cordial being between those who but a little while before had been ranged on opposite sides) became the order of the hour. No wonder there was a profound sense of relief. The long and exciting struggle was over. The era of division and estrangement was ended, and the era of union had come. Nothing now remained but for the United General Conference to assemble and adopt a constitution and formulate a discipline for the United Church. And this would be done on the day after the morrow.

Wednesday morning, 5th September 1883, dawned bright and fair, and the very skies seemed to smile upon the assembled delegates as they wended their way to the Methodist Episcopal Tabernacle, where the first United Conference was to be held. The hymn beginning,

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,

was sung with subdued and tender feeling, a portion of Scripture was read, and the Rev. Dr. John A. Williams led the Conference in prayer. At once a divine influence came down upon that good man, and out of the fulness of his heart came forth a prayer that is treasured in the memory of those who heard it to this day. If misgivings yet lingered in any minds, they vanished in the hallowed atmosphere of the mercy-seat, and few, if any, could resist