

METHODIST UNION—FACTS AND FIGURES RELATING THERE TO.

BY THE REV. J. S. ROSS, M.A.

IN TWO PARTS—PART I.

AMALGAMATION, commercial and ecclesiastical, is the order of the day. The subject of Methodist union is in the air. Almost simultaneously the four Methodist bodies of this province have discussed and passed resolutions concerning it. So far, but little has been said of details or of a basis, principally because it was necessary first to discover if a *spirit of union* existed. If that were wanting all else would be useless. But now that all the bodies interested have spoken in favour of the *principle* of union, we consider the time has arrived to examine each other's methods more fully, and thus make possible an intelligent and comprehensive argument on the question. The design of the present article is not so much to formulate an argument as to furnish materials for one, in other words to supply such facts and information as must necessarily be considered in any attempt at union.

Convinced that better acquaintance with the other Methodist bodies is necessary, we have taken a survey of the Bible Christian, Primitive Methodist, and M. E. Churches,* and now propose to give historical notes of the origin, the principal points of

* Authorities consulted :—

(1.) Bible Christian. Digest of Rules of 1876; Jubilee Memorial Vol, 1865; Minutes of Conference of 1882; Report of Conference of 1882 in *Observer*.

(2.) Primitive Methodist. Discipline of 1873; Petty's History of Primitive Methodist Connexion of 1864; Minutes of the English and Canadian Conferences of 1881; Minutes of the Canadian Conference of 1882; Reports of the Conference of 1882 in *Journal*.

(3.) Methodist Episcopal. Discipline of 1879; Minutes of the Niagara, Ontario, and Bay of Quinte Conferences, 1882.

(4.) Miscellaneous. Minutes of the London, Toronto, and Montreal Conferences of the Methodist Church of Canada for 1882; Cornish's Cyclopædia of Methodism in Canada; Carroll's Exposition Expounded; Dr. Ryerson's Articles in the METHODIST MAGAZINE; *Methodist Union*, Nos. 1-16.