

Within a few days of the date of the above mentioned letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, the Missionary Secretaries addressed a letter to their Representative in this Province, dated January 14, 1839, (1) condemning the views advocated in the Christian Guardian on the question of the Clergy Reserves; (2) objecting to the discussion of the Clergy Reserve Question at all in the Conference Journal; (3) directing their Representative to employ his influence with the Editor of the Guardian to carry out the views of the Missionary Secretaries—adding—"If you should fail in your attempt, then it will be for you to consider, whether you are not, as President of the Conference, empowered to interfere officially and authoritatively with the management of the Conference Journal, and to require, that, until the meeting of the next Conference, questions which 'tend to strife rather than to godly edifying,' shall be excluded from its pages."

A few days before Mr. Alder left London on his late Mission to Upper Canada, the President of the British Conference addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Canada Conference on the subject and objects of Mr. Alder's Mission. This letter is dated London, March 23, 1839, and contains the following statements and declarations: "Dear Sir—The advocacy in the Christian Guardian newspaper of the principles of strict and systematic dissent, in opposition to all religious establishments, has given deep and just offence to many of our best friends in England; and is regarded as a direct violation of the terms of Union between your Conference and our own. If the Guardian persist in the course which it has for some time pursued, the Union of the two Conferences can no longer be maintained.—The matter is deemed of such serious consequence, that Mr. Alder has been expressly appointed to visit Canada, for the purpose of obtaining a strict and faithful adherence to the stipulated conditions of Union between your Conference and our own; although his mission will occasion considerable expense, and his absence from England be very injurious to the interests of our Missions. The consequences of an open rupture between the two Conferences, especially in the present state of the Colony, and of your own Indian Missions, I trust you will seriously weigh, and not persist in a course which has occasioned loud and just complaints. I am," &c. (Signed) "THOMAS JACKSON."

Here several things are to be observed. (1.) This was the first interference of the London Missionary Committee with the question of the Clergy Reserves or Church Establishment in Upper Canada; although the question had been formally discussed in the columns of the Conference Journal both before and after the Union down to 1839. (2.) The discussion of the question is here stated, for the first time, to be "a direct violation of the terms of the Union" between the English and Canada Conferences; although the Representative of the Canada Conference in his Report of his Mission to England in 1833, on the subject of the Union, stated the reverse—stated that the co-operation and influence of the Committee in London would be exerted to maintain the expressed views and equal rights of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada on the question of the Clergy Reserves; and of the two Representatives of the British Conference (Messrs. Marsden and Stinson) concurred in the correctness of that Report when it was read in our Conference, assembled