

office, whose gifts, acquirements, and graces pre-eminently qualified him for its duties, and who was known to enjoy, in the highest degree, the confidence and respect of the British as well as the American connexion, and was also understood to be an Englishman by birth. This gentleman, who is now Principal of the Wesleyan University in Connecticut, from the peculiar circumstances of his health and situation, declined accepting of the office to which the Methodist Conference in the Province had invited him.

Since that time the attention of the Members of the Methodist Conference has been drawn to several gentlemen both in Great Britain and the United States, as suitably qualified to fill the office of a General Superintendent, but to none in either country, to the best of my knowledge, except British born subjects.

In respect to an American Bishop's ordaining Preachers in Canada, since their separation from the United States Conference, one of the honorable Committee was present on the occasion, and doubtless recollects all the circumstances of the case.—I may however observe, that at the time of the separation, it was expected that a general Superintendent would be immediately obtained—but failing to succeed in the accomplishment of this desirable object, no ordinations were performed for any preachers in Canada for the space of two years, and at the conference in August last, in Kingston, they were still left either to continue without ordination, or to infringe upon the established order of our prudential regulations, by performing the ceremony after another mode, or to invite a Bishop of the American Methodist Church to perform their ordinations.—The last of these alternatives was considered preferable to either of the other two. But requesting the performance of such ordinations by a Bishop of the American Methodist Church, implied no acknowledgement on the part of the Methodist Conference in Canada of a foreign Ecclesiastical jurisdiction.—For the English Bishops, by request, ordained Dr. White, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, without pretending to possess or exercise any jurisdiction over that church, and Bishop Hedding, who performed the ordinations referred to, stated in the presence of the congregation and in the presence of one member of the honorable Committee, previous to the performance of the ordination service, that he possessed no Ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the Canada Church—that this jurisdiction ceased in 1828, by the mutual consent of the Canada and United States Conferences—but that he consented to perform these ordinations,—1st. because the persons presented for ordination had been duly elected to the sacred office by the conference, and he had been invited to ordain them—2ndly he felt himself virtually authorised by the American General Conference to do so, in the Resolution which empowered him to ordain a General Superintendent, should the Canada Conference see fit to elect one—3rdly that Bishop Asbury, one of

the first Bishops of the Methodist Church in America, ordained English Missionaries for the West Indies, and the Province of Nova Scotia, places over which he assumed no ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

I may also add that an American Bishop, ordaining our ministers in Canada, is not considered, in England, in the light of their being under the controul of a foreign jurisdiction. The Rev. Richard Reece, a leading Minister in the English connexion, in a letter addressed to Francis Hall, Esq. of New York, shown me by that gentleman, and dated, London, Feb. 29, 1829, speaking of the separation and the difficulties under which the Methodist Conference in Canada labored in not being able to procure a General Superintendent, in all respects suited to their circumstances, observes, "They (the Methodist Conference in Canada) must, as you say, struggle on for a while, and your Bishop's must visit them, and ordain their ministers, until they can do without them."

I would likewise remark, that there is at this moment, the most friendly feeling existing between the Canada and the English connexion; that there is frequent friendly correspondence between ministers of both connexions; that no less than five English Local Preachers have joined the Canada connexion during the last year, immediately on their arrival in this country—joined in the same standing which they had in the English connexion; that at the last conference, held in Kingston, the President and Secretary, were directed to open a correspondence with the President of the British conference; and that I have no doubt whatever, that the union between the Canada and British connexions will at no distant period be as intimate as the circumstances of the two countries will render practicable.

In regard to circulating books, which may be considered as having a "Republican" tendency, I am not acquainted with any instances of the kind.

The books and publications at the depository of the establishment placed under my care, are I believe entirely the productions of European writers. I have several kinds of Bibles which have been obtained from the British and Foreign Bible Society. I have a quantity of Sunday school Books which were all published by the London Sunday School Union—I have between one and two hundred different sorts of Tracts, all of which have been issued by the London Tract Society.

The prayer of the petition to prohibit any religious bodies assembling that acknowledge any connexion with a foreign church, and all persons from exercising their ecclesiastical functions who are not British subjects, I believe will not interfere in the smallest degree with the Methodist conference, nor with the functions of any of the preachers employed by it, except those of two young men. But I believe however that English Missionaries exercise their functions under almost all governments, and that English Societies send their publications among almost all nations. Nor