

and Switzerland. The way having been prepared by previous correspondence, Dr. Beecham, in the spring of 1852, at the request of the Missionary Committee, visited France; and, in consultation with the Missionaries, during several successive days, concluded the necessary arrangements for placing the Missionary work in that country upon a new foundation. These arrangements, having met the approval of the Missionary Committee, were sanctioned by the Conference at its subsequent meeting at Sheffield; and the Society's Missions in France and Switzerland became a distinct but affiliated Connexion, or church, with its own local Conference, under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Cook. Australasia and Polynesia followed next in order. The plan on which the new French Connexion had been based was modified in some of its details, for the purpose of adapting it more fully to the circumstances of the work in those parts of the world; and the Rev. Robert Young was deputed to go to Australasia, and prepare the way for its introduction. On his return, encouraged by his report of the spirit in which the Missionaries and principal friends entered into the proposed plan, the Conference of 1854, which met at Birmingham, formed the Australasian and Polynesian Missions into a distinct affiliated Connexion, and appointed the Rev. William B. Boyce the President of its first local Conference.

British America, one of the oldest portions of the Methodist Mission field, was included in the new arrangements contemplated by the Committee. In 1847, the causes of misunderstanding which had disturbed the union between the Canadian and English Conferences having been removed, the Society's Indian and other Missions in Upper or Western Canada were connected again with the Canadian Conference, and a satisfactory re-union took place between that and the English Conference; leaving, under the immediate management of the Missionary Committee, the Missions in Lower Canada, the Eastern Provinces, and Newfoundland. The Bradford Conference of 1853 authorized the Committee to send a Deputation to British America, to make arrangements for bringing these remaining Missions under the new system; but so much time and attention was required for the revision and completion of the plan relating to Australasia, and the preparation of the requisite documents for carrying that plan into effect, that the proposed Deputation across the Atlantic was necessarily delayed. The union of the Lower or Eastern Canada and Hudson's-Bay Mission-Districts with the Canadian Conference, which had been arranged by correspondence during the year, was, however, effected at the following Conference of 1854, when the Australasian Connexion was formed; and the permission which had been granted to the Missionary Committee to send a Deputation to British America was, at the same time, renewed.

At the earnest request of the Committee, Dr. Beecham agreed to