

WHEREAS, in accordance with their strong national instincts, and with a view to securing the highest economy of means, and the most effective methods of Christian evangelization, all Japanese Christians urgently recommend that Protestant Missions, operating in Japan, lay aside minor points of difference and, as far as possible, unite in common lines of Church organization and activity; and,

WHEREAS, the more prominent Protestant Missions in Japan have been greatly blessed and prospered by organic union on the basis of independent Japanese Churches; and,

WHEREAS, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church (in Canada) are identical in doctrine, and almost identical in polity; therefore, *Resolved*,

1st. That we, the members in Japan of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the Methodist Church (in Canada), trusting in God, and seeking only His glory, hereby agree to unite in organizing and perpetuating the Methodist Church of Japan; into which union the other Methodist bodies in Japan are cordially invited to enter.

2nd. That the polity of the Methodist Church of Japan shall be Episcopal, and that the General Superintendency, the Itinerancy, and other essential features of Methodism shall be preserved; and that its doctrines, drawn from the Holy Bible, shall harmonize with the accepted standards of Methodism.

3rd. That in each contracting Mission the administration of its Missionary Society shall not be disturbed by this union, except as provided in Resolution 4th. Each Society shall, as heretofore, appoint the Treasurer in its own Mission, who will receive the appropriations and make such reports as may be required by each Society.

4th. That all appropriations made by the Home Societies for direct evangelistic work among the Japanese—aside from those made for Foreign Missionaries directly engaged therein—and also all funds raised by the Japanese Churches for the same purpose, shall be administered by a Joint Finance Committee.

5th. That the Joint Finance Committee shall be composed of members, one half of whom shall be Foreign Missionaries, and one half Japanese ministers or laymen. The Foreign members shall be appointed by their respective Societies, in a way to be determined hereafter; it being understood that representation on the Committee shall be in an approximate ratio to the contributions of the several Societies. The Japanese members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Japan Annual Conference of the Methodist Church.

6th. That the Joint Finance Committee shall prepare estimates for evangelistic work, as provided in Resolution 4th; and that these estimates shall be submitted to the contracting Missions for approval; after which they shall be forwarded to the Home-Boards by the Missions. The Finance Committee shall disburse the funds granted according to the appropriations made, and it shall prepare full reports of all disbursements for the Missions; and those reports shall be transmitted by the Missions to the Home Boards.

7th. That the property in each of the contracting Missions, now belonging to its Missionary Society, or that may hereafter be acquired by it, shall be held or disposed of by said Society for the benefit of the Methodist Church of Japan.

IV.

MEMORIAL ON THE ORGANIC UNION OF
METHODISM IN JAPAN.

TOKIO, JAPAN, December 20, 1887.

To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be held in the City of New York, United States of America, during the month of May, 1888:

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—We, the Committee appointed by the Japan Annual Conference, at its sessions held in the City of Tokio, August 12–18, 1887, to memorialize your body on the subject of “Organic Union of Methodism in Japan,” would present the following:

Recognizing our obligation and duty to God for His great mercy in bringing us from the darkness and misery of heathenism unto the blessed enjoyment of the character and privileges of members of the body of Christ, and actuated by motives of gratitude and loyalty to the Methodist Episcopal Church and its Missionary Society, to whose munificent gifts and the faithful labors of whose officers and missionaries we, under the blessing of God, owe our present happiness and hope of a glorious immortality, beg leave to present to your honorable body our humble petition, praying that, in your wisdom and goodness, you will be pleased to approve the accompanying “Basis of Union,” which has received the sanction of the Annual and the Quarterly Conferences, for a united and independent Methodism in Japan.

The reasons for our petition are briefly stated in the preamble to the “Basis of Union,” which will be read in your hearing.

It may be proper, however, for us here to express and emphasize our sincere belief that ecclesiastical union and independence are essential, not only to the planting and training, but even to the very existence, of Methodism in Japan. Among the grounds for this belief we may name:

1. The intensely patriotic instincts of our people, growing out of the insular and exposed position of our territory.

2. The importance of having Church organization accord with national characteristics and wants.

3. The fact that responsibility, direct and undivided, is essential to the formation of Christian character, and the prosperity of the Church.

4. That extreme sectarianism among Christians has been a stumbling-block with many of our people.

5. The hope that we have cherished, that Christianity will supply a bond of sympathy and confidence to unite all classes as our countrymen.

6. The extreme anxiety of our Government in regard to the integrity and autonomy of the empire.

7. The expense, delay, and necessarily imperfect action of the highest judicial processes, unavoidable under our present organization.

8. The acceptance of union and independence in the organization of Japanese Churches by most of the leading Missions in Japan.

9. Our profound conviction that it is only by the adoption of the paper we propose, or one of a similar character, that we, as Japanese Christians and Methodists, can best discharge our duties to God and our country; can conserve the results of the work already done, and yet to be done, in Japan by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and can most effectively aid in establishing in our beloved country the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Reiterating the expression of our gratitude and loyalty, and assuring you of our unalterable purpose to do all that