

all occasions, and throughout the whole period of our connexion with the English Conference, our language has been respectful and affectionate.

2. It ought not to be supposed that all those Members of the English Conference who advocated the abrogation of the Articles of the Union on their part, were influenced by unfriendly feelings towards the connexion in Canada, or were actuated by those notions of prerogative and power which have characterised the communications and proceedings of the Missionary Secretaries in London. On the contrary, we have the best reason to believe that many even of that portion of the British Conference were actuated more by a regard to the efficient operations and best interests of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada than to the pretensions set up in London—believing that such claims of authority over, and such perpetual intermeddling with our affairs, without any personal or adequate knowledge of them, without any identification of interest with us, without any residence in this country, or any personal liability to the consequences of such intermeddling, must be injurious to our peace and harmony, enfeebling to our energies, and unfavourable to the prosperity of our Church, to an amount far overbalancing any advantages which could be rationally supposed to arise from our nominal connexion with the English Conference. We are satisfied that the great majority of the Members of the Conference in England sincerely desire the peace and prosperity of Methodism in this country in connexion with our Conference; and towards them in return we should continue to deem it alike our duty and our privilege to cherish sentiments of respect and affection.

3. Though every reasonable effort has been made on the part of our Conference to maintain the Articles of the Union inviolate, and to prevent a dissolution of it, the circumstances which have transpired—the system of espionage upon our proceedings and the official and private conversations of our Preachers which has been carried on by official members of the British Conference associated with us, the clandestine and slanderous correspondence between them and the Missionary Secretaries in London, and their party agitations amongst us, and the interference of the Missionary Secretaries with our local and internal affairs—render it very doubtful whether its operations could have been harmoniously and advantageously maintained for any great length of time; in addition to which circumstances may be mentioned, the strong inclinations that are cherished and the efforts which are being made by leading Members of the British Conference, and especially on the part of the Missionary Secretaries, under whose control and management the affairs of Canada must always be placed—to introduce the use of *gowns* into Methodist pulpits, and the use of the *forms of prayer and the liturgy* into Methodist Chapels as far as possible throughout their whole work;* the almost universal opposition in the British Conference to Societies whose object is to promote total abstinence from the

* *Note by E. R.*—It is not intended to cast any reflection upon those Clergy who wear *gowns* and use the *Liturgy*, but they constitute no part of the paraphernalia of METHODISM; and we think those who desire the use of them had better go to the Church of England, where such appendages to public worship appear appropriate, than to attempt to introduce the use of them into METHODIST CONGREGATIONS.