

member, as well as in the hope that possibly some of the difficulties might be removed.

"We beg to report, first, that on enquiry we found that the church had appointed a committee to correspond with the Union, should such correspondence be sought; and having requested a conference with said committee the request was at once granted. We have had two meetings, and we cannot refrain from expressing our full satisfaction with the kind, frank, and truly affectionate spirit with which we have been met by the members of the committee.

"As the result of said conference we would respectfully express our confidence that the tendencies supposed to exist in our constitution do not really exist; but to make the principles of the Union more evident; to remove, if possible, every difficulty out of the way of our brethren of the First Church, your committee is prepared to propose the following amendments of the constitution, viz:

"Art. II. (in place of the present), 'That it shall consist of churches of the Congregational or Independent order, of the pastor or pastors of, and missionaries and evangelists connected with, associated churches, and professors or tutors in Colleges and Congregational Theological Institutes, being members of such associated churches, approved and received at a general meeting.'

"After the words 'perfect independence' in Art. III., instead of what now follows read 'in its government and administration, and therefore that the Union shall not assume legislative or administrative authority, or in any case become a court of appeal.'

"In Art. V. after the words 'represented by two' strike out the word 'lay.'

"In Art. VI. after the words 'chosen annually' insert from 'its members.'

"In standing rules remove the 1st and 16th rules. In the 11th omit all after 'with such meeting.' In 13th omit all the words before 'the churches are expected.'

"II. We also think that although the missionary operation of the body have always before, as well as after, the general amalgamation, been strictly connected with the Union, that some such change as was several years ago effected on our Theological Institute, might with advantage take place on the Missionary Society. In this case, however, correspondence with the Colonial Missionary Society will be required."

In view of the above, your committee would respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed by the Union to take this latter subject into careful consideration to report early next session:—That the Sec.-Treasurer of the Missionary Society be on this committee to conduct the necessary correspondence with the Home Society, and that the remaining members of the committee be nominated by the Chair. It was resolved, that the constitutional changes recommended in the former part of this Report be referred to a committee nominated by the chair, to report thereon at next annual meeting: said committee as nominated, Revs. K. M. Fenwick, J. Elliot, Dr. Lillie, T. M. Reikie and F. H. Marling. Also resolved, that the recommendation contained in the second portion of the Report be adopted. It was stated by the Convener of the Committee conferring with the 1st church, that no action in the conference of this committee with that Church should be understood as indicating the future course of that church towards the Union. The chair, in nominating the committee recommended in the second portion of the above report, re-appointed the parties who constituted that Committee, the Chairman himself, according to the recommendation being included, viz: Revs. A. J. Parker, K. M. Fenwick and J. Elliott, with Dr. Wilkes.

The Membership Committee having reported in relation to Mr. Harris of Simcoe, "That there be no alteration in the action of the Union from last year, a minority report recommended that a letter of dismissal be given to Mr. Harris, understanding thereby a letter signifying his membership up to his resignation, it was resolved, that in view of the inherent difficulty of the case referred to, the personal absence of the parties concerned, and the small number of members present at this late period of the session, these reports be accepted and laid on the table."

It
the le
the a
found
Re
table
Re
2nd V
Aft
the m
the g

Th
been
Th
their
they
No
vious

Sev
1,368
death
churc

Th
in all
show
an ag
Sev

Ag
of mi
healt
has b
pastor
the ec
Th
one of
who
gathe
Th
charg
Th
Th
Canac