



THE REV. ARTHUR BROWNING.

of almost every utterance of that great assembly. It is worthy of note that every decision of that conference was unanimous. If any one was opposed he did not show it by his vote. So we deem *The Guardian* right in saying that "of those composing the committee the number in favor of the proposed union 'overwhelmingly outweighed the number of contrary or even of hesitant judgment.'"

The pillar of cloud and of fire that led God's people through the Red Sea and the wilderness will go before us still, and will guide his Church into the Land of Promise he has prepared for us.

#### PROMOTED BRETHREN.

Never before has the same morning paper brought us the intelligence of the death, on the same day, of three distinguished ministers of the Methodist Church—including Dr. Macdonald, four within a week—and the Rev. A. S. Edwards, our missionary to the Indians at Walpole Island, the week before. The nearest approach which we remember was when our late General Superintendent, Dr. Rice, and the revered and beloved Dr. Carroll almost at the same time passed away. The three recent deaths represent three of the former divisions now happily combined in the united Methodist Church of Canada.

The Rev. Dr. Lathern, of Halifax, N.S., was indeed a brother beloved by all who knew him. Of English birth and parentage, he studied for a mining engineer, but later joined the British Methodist Conference, and volunteered for work in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where he occupied in succession the principal churches. He reached the highest offices in the gift of his brethren, those of President of the Nova Scotia Conference and Editor of *The Wesleyan*, both of which positions he filled with distinguished success. Dr. Lathern's ability as a writer is not unknown to the readers of this magazine, by his *Life of James Morrow*, and other books, and by his frequent contributions to this magazine. His death, on January 7, at the age of seventy-three, is felt to be a great loss not only in his own congregation, but throughout the entire community.

On the same day death came suddenly to another venerable and beloved minister, the Rev. Arthur Browning, Toronto. He was born in Cornwall, England, seventy-one years ago, and retained to the last his Cornish fire and fervor and evangelistic zeal. He came to Canada in 1857, and was one of our earliest missionaries of British Columbia. His labors among the Indians of the seacoast and the gold miners of Cariboo abounded in episodes of a stirring romance. He



THE REV. WILLIAM BEE.