

called Methodists." By means of this deed, a legal description was given to the term Conference and the settlement of Chapels upon Trustees was provided for; so that the appointment of Preachers to officiate in them should be vested in the Conference as it had heretofore been in Mr. Wesley. The deed also declares how the succession and identity of the yearly conference, is to be continued, and contains various regulations as to the choice of a President and Secretary, the filling up of vacancies, expulsions &c. Thus "the succession," as it was called, was provided for; and the Conference, with its President, chosen annually, came into the place of the Founder of the connexion, and has so continued to the present day. As the whole of the Preachers were not included in the deed, and a few who thought themselves equally entitled to be of the hundred Preachers who thus formed the Legal Conference were excepted, some dissatisfaction arose; but as all the Preachers were eligible to be introduced into that body as vacancies occurred, this feeling was but partial and soon subsided. All Preachers in full connexion were allowed to vote in the conference; and subsequently, those who were not of the hundred, but had been in connexion a certain number of years, were permitted by their votes, to put the President into nomination for the confirmation of the Legal Conference. Thus all reasonable ground for mistrust and jealousy was removed from the body of the Preachers at large; and with respect to the hundred Preachers, themselves, the President was chosen annually, and each being eligible to that honour, efficiency of administration was wisely connected with equality. The consequence has been, that the Preachers have generally remained most firmly united by affection and mutual confidence, and that few disputes have ever arisen among them, or have extended beyond a very few individuals. Ecclesiastical history does not, perhaps, present an instance of an equal number of Ministers brought into contact so close, and called so frequently together, for the discussion of various subjects, among whom so much general unanimity, both as to doctrines and points of discipline has prevailed, joined with so much zeal, good-will and friendship towards each other, for so great a number of years. This is the more remarkable, as by their frequent changes from station to station, opposite interests and feelings are very often brought into contact. The final decisions of the Conference on their appointment to these stations, generally the most perplexing part of its annual business, are, however, cheerfully or patiently submitted to, from the knowledge that each has of the public spirit with which that body is actuated, and the frank and brotherly manner in which all its proceedings are conducted. By this deed, Mr. Wesley, at his death, devised to the Conference every prerogative he enjoyed as the Father of the Connexion, and in this important and wise settlement of the government of the connexion, there appears, in the opinion of his Biographer, but one regulation, which seems to controvert that leading maxim to which he had always respect, namely to be guided by circumstances in matters not determined by some great principle. We allude to the proviso which obliges the Conference not to appoint any Preacher to the