

8. LETTER TO THE ENGLISH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

To the authorities of the Primitive Methodist Church in England.

Dear Brethren,—Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied into you.

We, the ministers and lay delegates in Conference assembled, beg to express our sincere thanks for the kind consideration your General Committee gave to the communication from our last Conference, viz., that of 1882, respecting the bearing of Canadian Methodist Union on our Church in this country.

A basis has been prepared by the United Committees of the Methodist bodies as broad as could be expected, considering the divergent rules of the contracting Churches. The basis includes Lay Delegation to Annual Conferences.

It is very generally expected that Union will be affirmed during the next ecclesiastical year, as a very large majority of Quarterly Boards among the bodies have endorsed the Basis, but it will have to be submitted to the Annual and General Conferences of the Canada Methodist Church, composed of the Wesleyan and New Connexion Methodist Churches united. Such is the force of surrounding circumstances and influences, and such the strong tendency for combination in the Churches of Canada, that we could not but acquiesce in the extensive call for Methodist Union, if a suitable basis were provided, especially in view of the evident waste of labor and expense in many parts of this country by the opposition of four distinct Methodist bodies, and in view of the need of the times relative to United Methodism for Christian work in our great North-West.

It will be seen, brethren, that the final decision on Methodist Union is pending; and if Union be affirmed in September next, it cannot take general practical effect till twelve months hence, each Church must operate in its individual capacity up to mid-summer of 1884.

W. HERRIDGE, *President.*
R. CADE, *Secretary.*

25—What reports are adopted by Conference?

1. REPORT OF THE ORDINATION COMMITTEE TO CONFERENCE.

Your Committee begs to report that they have carefully examined Bros. C. J. Curtis, J. Stonehouse, J. A. Trollope, S. Fisher, and W. Walker, on the Christian Doctrine and Ministerial Conduct, and the examination was, on the whole, most satisfactory. We have also examined their journals, and though not of equal merit in a literary point of view, they all give evidence of diligence in pastoral visiting, and careful preparation for the pulpit, and of an earnest Christian experience. We therefore recommend the Conference to grant their application for Ordination and the Annual List.

(Signed)

W. S. HUGHAN.
W. REID.
J. GOODMAN.
J. W. ROBINSON.
G. WOOD.
H. HARRIS.
J. MILNER.