

After much consultation, the accompanying basis was prepared, which has already been placed in your hands, but to which we would again draw your attention. It was felt by us and by our Church that we could now do nothing more than wait until the chief difficulty felt by our M. E. brethren should be overcome, viz: to obtain the consent of the M. E. General Conference to so grave a step as the first break in their Episcopal control over extending Mission Churches in many lands, "unlimited expansion with central jurisdiction," being the ambitious watchword with so many in that Church. Hence, until that question should be decided, we thought it unwise to take further action either in presenting the matter to you officially or to the Church in Canada, or to agitate our cause in Japan. Our M. E. brethren, however, not only forwarded the proposed basis to their General Conference, but a strong memorial was also forwarded, embodying the sentiments of their native brethren. Our Japanese and your brethren in Annual Meeting assembled, having this basis of union and the above memorial before them, endorsed the principle of union, but felt they could go no further until the prime difficulty should be removed.

The decision of the M. E. General Conference will be already known to you. The fact that they have made it possible for their Church in Japan, by uniting with us to pass from under their Episcopal control and become with us an autonomous Church in Japan, makes it now incumbent on us to move in the matter. We refer you to the literature that has already appeared on the subject, especially the Basis itself, the Memorial of the Japan M. E. Conference to their General Conference, and Dr. MacLay's ten-minute speech reported in the *Guardian* of June 13th, 1888, and we would simply add that we do not see how we can conserve the fruits of past victories and carry Methodism forward to success on any other line.

The great union of five Presbyterian Churches in Japan, —and now about to be added to that, the extended Congregational churches of the A.B.C.F.M.—has created a stupendous stream of influence in their favor, by which men of intellect and education are attracted to their ministry, and men of position and wealth to their communion. With us that day has passed—or is about to be ushered in by a union of Methodist forces, by which we too can create a Church that shall be national and no longer provincial, strong in its enterprises, instead of weak as at present. United thus we could produce a literature, establish schools, and set loose evangelistic forces that would soon, by the blessing of God, create a stream of influence—as mighty as any—in favor of Methodism.

With regard to school work, in the event of union, we think it would be wise to perpetuate the preparatory departments of both churches, but to unite in college work, as in Theological.

We do not think that the conditions laid down by the Methodist Episcopal General Conference interpose any serious obstacle in the way, and hence we propose to appoint a committee that shall unite with a similar committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church in drawing up the outlines of a Discipline, to be submitted to the authorities of the home Churches of the contracting parties for their approval. We ask you, therefore, to endorse the principle of union, and to state any further points which you consider it important that we should insist upon or guard in approaching a final arrangement.

(Signed),

C. S. EBY.

R. WHITTINGTON.

At a meeting of the Mission Council, held on the 31st of July, the preceding document was presented as the report of a committee previously appointed to prepare a communication for the information of the General Board on the question of the Unification of Methodism in Japan. The report was received, and before final adoption the Council thought it advisable to add the following, which is the result of its work as a committee of the whole, so that the Board might not only be in possession of all the information possible, but also understand as fully as possible the feeling of the Council with regard to some of the leading points involved in this important question.

I. With respect to the General Superintendency, we unanimously hold:—

- (a) That the election shall be for a term of years only, and not for life.
- (b) That it shall not imply reconsecration.

NOTE.—The Methodist Episcopal members of the joint committee, who drafted the basis of union, assented to the above points.

- (c) That the General Superintendents shall be *ex officio* Presidents of the General Conference, and exercise all the functions therein involved. They shall also be *ex officio* Presidents of the Annual Conferences.

II. As to the formation of a Stationing Committee, we are of the opinion that it should be composed of (a) *ex officio* members, viz., General Superintendents, and Presiding Elders or Chairmen of Districts, and (b) elected members to be chosen as may be hereafter provided in the new Discipline.

III. With regard to the office of Presiding Elder or Chairman of District, we think that the provisions of our own Discipline are the best that we can adopt.

IV. The proposed union shall not disturb the relation of the Mission Council to the Home Board.

V. As there are no conflicting interests between the respective fields of the contracting bodies, and no place outside of Iōkyō where their work interlaces, there will be no occasion for retrenchment along any line; but, on the other hand, there will be still grander opportunities for expansion. It is therefore most important that, in view of union, we should extend and strengthen our work as rapidly as possible.

VI. We are unanimous in our opinion that the present educational work at Azabu should be carried on in full force in event of union, since there is room enough and work enough for both the M. E. School and our own without in any way conflicting. Still we propose that both these schools shall only be preparatory feeders to a Union College doing higher educational work. Of course our Theological work will not be in any way affected by the proposed union.

F. A. CASSIDY,

Secretary pro tem.

HAKONE, Aug. 4, 1888.

### III.

BASIS OF THE PROPOSED UNION BETWEEN THE CHURCHES IN JAPAN, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, U.S.A., AND THAT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH (IN CANADA).

WHEREAS, during the period of transition through which Japan is now passing, the religious character and ecclesiastical relations of the Japanese will be moulded and settled so that subsequent radical changes will be extremely difficult; and,