

for the day when there would once more be only one Methodism, and when all who preached the doctrines that Wesley preached, and lived the life that Wesley lived, would gather together around his dust in City-road to bury their discord and their divisions forever."

In a vigorous editorial the *Methodist Times* remarks: "The result of the Union debate in the Methodist Conference last Friday evening was nothing less than a marvellous answer to prayer. Thousands of devout Christians had been praying that God would direct that burning and perilous discussion; but who had dared to hope for so blessed and complete an answer? We ourselves had not ventured to anticipate a triumph so complete that it inflicted no humiliation or defeat on our reasonable and high-minded opponents. The result is exactly what we have always advocated from the time it became evident that the Conference must discuss the question this year. But we approached the discussion with a heavy and anxious heart. So much had been done to misrepresent our motives and to embitter the controversy that we greatly feared the effect of a Conference debate on our own people and on the other Methodist Churches. But God lovingly rebuked our fears. Although Methodist reunion had never before been distinctly raised in the Methodist Conference during the long century of our divided existence; although this question inevitably awoke memories of strife and ill-will, the hand of God was so powerfully upon all that one of the largest Conferences that ever met accepted an honourable compromise with only three dissentient votes. It is the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in our eyes. Those who differ from us have acted in so noble and so conciliatory a manner that we should have greatly preferred to dismiss the subject without further comment, after expressing our deep and devout thankfulness to Almighty God.

"It is difficult to exaggerate the moral effect of the vote. It proved, once for all, that this movement can-

not be stamped out. It must be faced and fully considered. All men will now realize that the question has entered the range of practical legislation. We have completed the first stage of the great enterprise to which God is calling us. We must now give ourselves more than ever to prayer, while we await with reverent vigilance the next indication of His adorable will."

We confidently anticipate that this great reunion movement will be carried to a successful issue in the old land, and be a cause of untold blessing, as the union movement has been in Canada. The objection made to the apprehended invasion of the "rights" of the ministry by the proposed union seems to us trivial and unfounded. When every minister becomes in fact what the Pope of Rome falsely claims to be, "The Servant of the Servants of God"—*Servus Servorum Dei*—then will he be enthroned in the hearts of the people as never before. Not by standing on their "rights," but by closest imitation of Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, will they knit to their hearts with bonds of steel the sympathies of the laity, and go forward in the work of the Lord with the blessed feeling, "We be brethren."

In the United Methodist Free Church, the union question also came prominently to the front, and the following resolution was passed after a frank and full discussion: "Resolved, that this Assembly records its thanks to Almighty God for the increasing manifestations of brotherly love on the part of the different Methodist denominations, and expresses the strong hope that the evident kindly feeling will lead to closer union and more general co-operation among all Methodist communities, as was desired and anticipated by the Ecumenical Conference of 1881; further, that this question be referred to the Connexional Committee for further consideration, that they may take such steps as may appear desirable."

Anyone who a year ago would have predicted that such advances would have soon been made toward union