

within its walls. The devotional services were solemn and impressive, for everyone seemed to feel that the occasion was one of no ordinary kind, and that momentous issues were at stake. The debate which ensued was fully up to the level of the previous discussions, and maintained the high reputation of the Conference as a deliberative assembly; but when the debate on the floor closed, and Dr. Williams arose to speak, the strained attention of the vast audience grew almost painful in its intensity. In an able address of nearly an hour's duration, Dr. Williams recapitulated the arguments against the basis of union, and made an earnest appeal in favour of delay, and when he finished it was felt that the last word on that side had been spoken.

At this juncture, however, a somewhat dramatic incident occurred. As already stated, it had been agreed that an address from Dr. Williams and one from Mr. Sutherland should close the debate; but as soon as the former ceased speaking there were calls from various parts of the Conference for Dr. Douglas. The Doctor was known to be a pronounced opponent of union, and it was understood that his room at the hotel was the regular meeting-place of those who sympathised with his views when discussing their plans for carrying on the debate. As a minister honoured and beloved his influence was great, and it was felt by some that to call upon him at this critical stage in the discussion, in face of the agreement that had been reached, was tantamount to a breach of faith. But the unionists sat in silence, making no sign, and, though evidently averse to speaking, Dr. Douglas at length arose. In breathless attention the