

the sorrowing ones, to the chamber of suffering, and to the grave; but in the Church of God we lift up our heads with thankfulness and joy. "He being dead, yet speaketh." How he loved our Canadian Methodism! What faith he had in it! and how faithful he was to it in all its interests! A typical Methodist preacher, fully persuaded in his own mind, rooted, settled, so as to say, like Saul of Tarsus, after he had heard and seen that Just One, "Paul an apostle by the will of God;" holding with an intense devotion the peculiar and spiritual doctrines of the Wesleyan evangelism; a profound and comprehensive theologian, well discerning what to include as the doctrines of covenanted mercy and saving grace, and what to exclude from this sovereign domain. A man thoroughly practised and deeply experienced in the polity of our Methodism, and especially in the relations and requirements of our itinerant system. His record is with us, and his reward is sure. Dignified and energetic as a presiding officer, we all shall miss his guidance in this Conference; and none will feel the lack of his assistance more than I. With the great issues that are upon us, and in the deprivation of so much of the fellowship that many of us have hitherto enjoyed, may we, in God's good providence, find compensation in the new associations of this Conference; and may there come upon us in power the Spirit of wisdom, of love and a sound mind.

On the death of Dr. Williams, under authority of Discipline, paragraph 126, there were duly called together the Special Committee of the General Conference, and the six other persons appointed by the General Conference, to consider the question whether a successor to him in the General Superintendency be at once appointed. It was decided by this joint body that owing to the nearness of the General Conference, and for other reasons, no appointment be made. The death of Dr. Williams took place on the 16th of December, 1889, and the joint committee met February 27th, 1890.

The vast amount of important business devolving upon this Conference will be in the main brought forward to our view in the reports of Boards and Committees, and probably in a state of completeness that will greatly facilitate the work of the Conference. The last General Conference, surveying the field with keener than episcopal eye, appointed committees on all conceivable subjects, from the punctuation and grammatical inaccuracies of the book of Discipline, to the Ecumenical Council of Methodism, and the unification and consolidation of all the Protestant Churches. There is such a profusion of committees, that upon some of the ground they lap and lie with the softness and richness and uselessness of waste velvet. Like the strata of autumn leaves, they may enrich the ground double or triple-fold. Something of an enumeration of the Boards and Committees—first of the regular and general, then of the special and exceptional—may afford to some extent, a field plan of our work, and possibly suggest a thought as to the most expeditious and effective way of accomplishing it. Reports must come in from:—

1. The General Conference Special Committee.
2. The Court of Appeal, both the Preliminary Court and Full Court.
3. The Committee on Transfers, both the Interim and Annual.
4. The General Board of Missions and the General Secretary.
5. The Book and Printing Establishments, East and West.