

to them from political motives, these objections were then urged against us to the Government of this country. Natural as it was for political characters to listen to alarms on such subjects, some excitements were produced in the minds of men high in the Executive Department, and some late events have rather increased than allayed these excitements. To us therefore it appears proper to apply for a separation; that by yielding to what might be thought to be the reasonable wishes of the Government, we may obviate objections and remove all suspicion of the purity of our motives in preaching the Gospel in this country.

4th. To us it appears expedient and necessary, that the Societies here should be set off as a separate body; because that in the event of war between the two nations, the difficulties of intercourse between this country and the United States would render it extremely hazardous, if not totally impracticable as we are now situated, for the Superintendents to discharge their duties in Canada.

5th. To us it appears expedient, that the Societies here should become a church separate from the body in the United States, in order to secure privileges which are of importance for the prosperity of religion here. At present we are not permitted to perform the rites of marriage to our members, nor indeed have we any legal security for any of our numerous chapels in this Province, and we have been assured that in our present relation we must not expect any extension of privileges. Though we cannot assure ourselves of such advantages by becoming a separate body, yet we can apply for those privileges with more confidence; and we think we have reason to hope that when petitions shall be presented to the Government from an independent church in this country, our privileges will be granted and our property secured.

These, brethren, are the reasons which have been presented to our minds, and which appear to us of weight and moment in favour of a separation, and in order to preserve the body of Methodist in this country from the most disastrous of all events, that of divisions among ourselves."

This Memorial is signed by Wm. Case and 29 others. It was laid before the several annual conferences in the United States, and received the concurrence of a large majority of them.

In the mean time the Methodist Conference in Canada, at its session held in Hamilton, Gore District, 1827—adopted a similar memorial to the American General Conference, and elected five delegates to attend that conference assembled at Pittsburg, May 1828, with instructions to use their best exertions to obtain a favourable answer to the prayer of the petition.

The General Conference, after due examination of the subject, adopted the following preamble and resolution, copied from the original, which I had the honor of producing for the perusal of the committee when I was personally before them.

"Resolved by the Delegates of the Annual

Conferences in General conference assembled; that

"Whereas the jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America has heretofore been extended over the ministers and members in connexion with said church, in the Province of Upper Canada, by mutual agreement and by the consent of our brethren in that Province,—and whereas this general Conference is satisfactorily assured that our brethren in the said Province, under peculiar and pressing circumstances, do now desire to organize themselves into a distinct Methodist Episcopal Church, in friendly relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.—Therefore, Be it Resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the Delegates of the Annual Conferences in General conference assembled."

"If the Annual Conference in Upper Canada at its ensuing session, or any succeeding session, previously to the next General Conference, shall definitively determine on this course, and elect a General Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church in that Province, this General Conference do hereby authorize any one or more of the General Superintendents of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, with the assistance of any two or more Elders to ordain such General Superintendent for the said church in Upper Canada—provided always, that nothing herein contained, be contrary to or inconsistent with the laws existing in the said Province; and provided that no such General Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Upper Canada or any of his successors in office shall, at any time, exercise any Ecclesiastical jurisdiction whatever, in any part of the United States, or of the Territories thereof, and provided also, that this article shall be expressly ratified and agreed to, by the said Canada Annual Conference, before any such ordination shall take place."

Pursuant to the authority given in the resolution of the American General Conference, the Methodist Conference in Canada, at its next session held in Ernestown, Midland District Oct. 1828, took the subject of separation again into consideration, and after rehearsing the above preamble, Resolved, that it is expedient and necessary, and that the Canada Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church do now organize themselves into an independent Methodist Episcopal Church in Upper Canada with a General Superintendent, to be known by the name of "The Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada."

2d Resolved—That we adopt the present Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church as the basis of our Constitution and Discipline, except such alterations as may appear necessary from our local circumstances.

3d Resolved—That the twenty third article of our religion be expunged, and the following be inserted in its place—"We believe it to be the duty of all christians to be subject to the powers that be;—for we are commanded by the oracles of