

## Current Topics and Events.

### METHODIST REUNION IN ENGLAND.

This great movement is making steady progress in the old land. It is ground for solid satisfaction that the example of Canada, like seed sown in a kindly soil, is bringing forth fruit both in the mother country and in the distant antipodean world of Australia. After an able discussion in the New Connexion Conference, in which the full force of anti-union sentiment was exhausted, a resolution strongly in favour of union was passed by a large majority, as recorded in our last number. The closing sentence of that resolution reads as follows: "Believing that the movements towards union are the result of Divine leading and influence, the Conference instructs the annual committee for the ensuing year to maintain an attitude of friendly observation, and to avail itself of any opportunities which may arise to foster and advance the closer fellowship of the Methodist Churches."

The action of the Wesleyan body was awaited with anxious interest. It was known that some of the leading minds of the Conference were opposed to organic union with the minor bodies. It was no surprise, therefore, when the following resolution was proposed: "That whilst sincerely rejoicing in the good feeling which obtains between the Methodist New Connexion and ourselves, the Conference is constrained to affirm its unabated confidence in the principles of government distinctive of Wesleyan Methodism; and whilst prepared to give its best attention to any suggestions for preventing waste and friction in the actual working of the various sections of the Methodist Church, the Conference is bound to record that in its judgment it is undesirable at present to take any steps toward organic unity."

A resolution more distinctively favouring union was proposed by

Dr. E. E. Jenkins, and earnestly supported. In order to secure virtual unanimity, both of these resolutions were withdrawn, and the following compromise resolution was carried with only three dissentient votes:

"The Conference, with profound thankfulness to the Divine Head of the Church, recognises and heartily reciprocates the Christian and brotherly feeling expressed in recent resolutions of the Methodist New Connexion and of other Methodist Churches (which have appeared in the public press). It expresses the confident hope that our own people will, by all legitimate means, strive to promote the spirit of brotherly kindness amongst all who hold the Christian faith as expounded by our venerable founder. Whilst affirming its unabated confidence in the essential principles of the government of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and whilst believing that any attempt to promote organic union is not at present desirable, the Conference is of opinion that, by mutual forbearance and consideration, some at least of the waste of labour and resources caused by the needless multiplication of Methodist chapels might be prevented. The Conference therefore appoints a committee, which shall meet during the year to consider and report as to the way by which the waste and friction in the actual working of the various sections of the Methodist Church may be lessened or prevented, and brotherly love promoted."

Our English friends are exceedingly cautious about committing themselves to this great movement. Mr. Hughes made a good point when he said that this movement must not be forced forward, neither must it be forced backward. In closing an eloquent address, he said: "They should not close the door of hope against those who longed and prayed