

ing great issues. By tacit consent it devolved upon the Rev. A. Sutherland, as Secretary of the Union Committee, to move the adoption of the basis, and as he had been from the first a pronounced advocate of union he had to bear the brunt of assaults from the other side. The phrase "by tacit consent" is strictly correct, for no plans were laid by the advocates of union as to how the debate should be conducted. They were so deeply convinced that the union movement was under divine guidance that they feared to mar it by plans of worldly wisdom. So tenaciously was this thought adhered to that five minutes before the Secretary rose to move the adoption of the basis he did not know by whom his motion would be seconded. The opposition to the basis was led by the Rev. Dr. John A. Williams, and right ably and manfully did he discharge what he felt to be a duty. But it was uphill work, for from the first it was evident he was fighting a losing battle, and that union was a foregone conclusion.

The debate continued for five days, and the interest grew as the days went by; but it culminated on the last evening, when, in accordance with previous agreement, the debate on the floor of the Conference was to close at a given hour, after which Dr. Williams and Mr. Sutherland were to be heard, and then the vote would be taken. At an early hour representatives from all denominations in the city, and others from great distances in the country round about, began to assemble, and long before the time for opening the last stage of the debate arrived, the spacious church was crowded to its utmost capacity by the most deeply interested audience that ever assembled