

*allow the whole of Lower Canada to be given up to the British Connexion.* The reader is requested to note carefully this fact.

The action of the General Conference was communicated to the British Conference by the Rev. John Emory, delegate from the former body. After full consideration of the case, the proposal of the General Conference to divide the Provinces was agreed to. The English Missionary Committee then caused letters of instruction to be addressed to their Missionaries in Canada, giving a brief review of the circumstances already referred to, and directing them to carry into effect the resolutions of the Conference on the subject.

In accordance with the agreement entered into between the two Conferences, the venerable Bishop McKendree addressed letters of instruction to the preachers and Societies in Canada, informing them of the new arrangement and urging that it be promptly and faithfully carried out. Thus the dispute which for years had marred the peace of the Societies was happily terminated, and a new and auspicious era dawned upon the Methodism of Canada.

During the progress of the dissensions above referred to, the American preachers in Canada were frequently reproached because of their subjection to a foreign government, and reports were industriously circulated reflecting upon the loyalty of the Societies under their charge. This led to a desire, on the part of many of the preachers and people, for a separation from the church in the United States; and at the General Conference of 1824, petitions to that effect, were presented. The request was refused by that body, on the ground that, in their judgment, the time for such an arrangement was not yet come; but they agreed to the organization of a separate Conference for Canada, to be under the jurisdiction of the General Conference in the United States.

In accordance with this arrangement, the Canadian preachers met in the village of Hallowel (now Picton), on the 26th of August, 1824, and organized the first Canada Conference, under the presidency of Bishops George and Hedding, with William Case as Secretary. Deeply impressed with the conviction that a separation from the jurisdiction of the American Conference would, under existing circumstances, subserve the interests of Methodism in Canada, the Conference adopted a Memorial to the several Annual Conferences in the United States, setting forth the reasons which led them to seek a separation. The Memorial was laid before the Annual Conferences by the presiding Bishops, and received the concurrence of a large majority of the members.

The Canada Conference, at its session held in Hamilton in 1827, again took up the question of separation, and adopted a Memorial to the General Conference on the subject. The memorial was presented to the latter body by the Rev. Wm. Ryerson, in the city of Pittsburg, on Monday, 5th May, 1828, and referred to a Committee of seven members, with the Rev. Nathan Bangs as chairman. "When the subject first came up for consideration," says Dr. Bangs, (*Hist. M. E. Church*), "it was contended, and the committee to whom it was first referred so reported, which report was approved by a vote of the General Conference, that we had no constitutional right to set off the brethren in Upper Canada as an independent body, because the terms of the compact