

SUPPLEMENT TO

THE WESLEYAN.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A COMMITTEE OF WESLEYAN MINISTERS AND FRIENDS IN LOWER CANADA,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

"LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER TO PROVOKE UNTO LOVE AND TO GOOD WORKS."—HEBREWS X. 24.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1840.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND UPPER CANADIAN WESLEYAN CONFERENCES.

PROCEEDINGS AND DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE
ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE UNION BETWEEN
THE BRITISH CONFERENCE AND THE UPPER CAN-
ADA CONFERENCE, AND TO OUR MISSIONS IN
UPPER CANADA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WESLEYAN.

DEAR SIR,

The following statement, taken from the minutes of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in July last, is an outline of the proceedings of that Venerable Body, with reference to the Union which lately subsisted between the British and Upper Canada Conferences. A more detailed account of the causes of difference between the two Conferences above referred to, will be published in a short time. But as many of our friends in the Upper and Lower Province are anxious to obtain some information on the present state of our affairs, I deem it necessary to place before them, for their immediate consideration, this brief statement of the course pursued by our fathers and brethren in the late Session.

These documents will sufficiently prove that the British Conference has spared no pains in endeavouring to adjust the differences which have unhappily arisen between the two bodies, and that when their reasonable proposals were rejected by the Representatives of the Upper Canada Conference, they were reluctantly led to the conclusion that any further union than that of a friendly relation, such as ought to exist between all parts of the Wesleyan family, could no longer continue with satisfaction to either party.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

JOSEPH STINSON.

Montreal, October 3, 1840.

The Conference last year appointed a Special Committee to decide finally in all matters relating to the union existing between the British Conference and the Upper Canada Conference, and to our Indian Missions in Upper Canada. A large Committee was also this year appointed by the Conference, to investigate the proceedings of the aforesaid Committee of last year—to consider the Resolutions which were adopted by the Upper Canada Conference of 1840—and to receive the communications of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson, the Representatives deputed by the Upper Canada Conference to at-

tend the British Conference. The Committee last named sat several days, and a length presented a copious Report to the Conference, which Report received a few verbal alterations and additions, and on the whole of which, as thus amended, the decision of the Conference was then given.

I. THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

During the long and careful examination of the important subjects referred to the Committee, various Documents were read or largely quoted, and oral testimonies received, comprising the following Articles:—

1. Dr. Alder's Statement of the Proceedings of the Committee appointed by the British Conference for the Affairs of Upper Canada in 1839

2. Articles of Union between the British Conference and the Conference of Upper Canada, drawn up in 1833.

3. The Rev. John Beecham's Statements and Explanations in illustration of the aforesaid Articles of Union.

4. The Rev. George Marsden's Explanatory Statement respecting the Note appended by the Upper Canada Conference of 1833 to the 5th clause of the 6th Article of Union, and the first Payment of the Government Grant for our missions in Upper Canada.

5. Statements of the Rev. Edmund Grindroff, Rev. William Lord, and Rev. Joseph Stinson, who have been Presidents of the Upper Canada Conference; and also of the Rev. Matthew Richey.

6. Letter from the Rev. Egerton Ryerson to Dr. Alder in 1834.

7. Extracts from the Minutes of the Upper Canada Conference, held in Toronto in 1837, on Government Grants for religious purposes—involving principles which might have been pleaded by the Government as a reason for withholding from the Wesleyan Missionary Society the Grant pledged to that Society from the Casual and Territorial Revenue for the support and extension of our Missions amongst the Indians and destitute Settlers in Upper Canada; and which, in point of fact, did induce the Local Government to decline for a time to renew, in conformity with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the payment of the suspended Grant.

8. Extracts from Letters of the Rev. Joseph Stinson, under dates October and November, 1839, and January, 1839—showing that the peace of our Societies in Canada was disturbed through an habitual and zealous interference with secular and party politics by the "Christian Guardian;" which paper, being the avowed and official organ of the Upper Canada Conference, virtually involved the British Conference, during the subsisting Union, in a common responsibility as to principles and consistency.

9. Dr. Alder's Letter to the Rev. Joseph Stinson, dated London, January 14, 1839, on the subjects referred to in the above named Letters of Mr. Stinson.

10. Letter of the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society to the Lieutenant Governor Sir George Arthur, dated London, February 8, 1839, announcing the mission of Dr. Alder to our Societies in British North America, and to the Upper Canada Conference, disclaiming, on the part of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, all participation in the responsibility attached to certain publications on questions then agitated in Canada—and expressing their anxiety to maintain the honour and consistency of our religious character, and to preserve "all the Societies, with whom they are in any degree identified, in habits of loyalty and peace, and of exclusive devotedness, in their collective and ecclesiastical relations, to the great work of promoting the spiritual and eternal interests of mankind."

11. Letter of the President of the British Conference, the Rev. Thomas Jackson, to the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, complaining of his official advocacy of principles in the Christian Guardian, inconsistent with, and opposed to, the principles held and often declared by the British Conference.

12. Extract from the Minutes of the Upper Canada Conference, held at Hamilton, in June, 1839, containing the settlement of matters in dispute up to that period, and an amicable arrangement for the future.

13. Extracts from the Christian Guardian on the same subject.

14. Dr. Alder's Letter to the Rev. Joseph Stinson, dated New York, October 9, 1839.

15. Extracts from the Letters of the Rev. Joseph Stinson and Rev. Matthew Richey to Dr. Alder in 1839 and 1840.

16. Memorial addressed to the Governor General by the Rev. Joseph Stinson, President of the Upper Canada Conference, and Superintendent of our Missions in Upper Canada, and by the Rev. Matthew Richey, Superintendent of Toronto.

17. Letter to Dr. Alder from Mr. Vernon Smith, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Downing Street, 1840, enclosing, by order of Lord John Russell, an important communication of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson's to the Governor General, and which Mr. Vernon Smith's Letter describes as respecting the Grant to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

18. Dr. Alder's Letter to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply to Mr. Vernon Smith's communication.

19. Resolutions of the Committee appointed by the British Conference of 1839 to decide finally on all matters relating to the Union existing between the British Conference and the Upper Canada Conference, and to our Indian Missions in Upper Canada, held at 77, Hatton Garden, London, on Wednesday, April 29, 1840; which Resolutions specify the three distinct allegations or matters of complaint, to which reference is made in the Resolutions of this Committee hereinafter inserted. (See Resolution I.)

20. Correspondence of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson with the Governor General of British North America.

21. Resolution on Government Grants for Religious Purposes, submitted by Dr. Alder to the Upper Canada Conference at Hamilton, in 1839.

22. Addresses of Upper Canada Conference, held at Belleville, in June, 1840, to the British Conference.

23. Resolutions, in accordance with the views of the British Conference, which were proposed to the Upper Canada Conference in 1840, and negatived by a large majority.

24. Resolutions of the Upper Canada Conference in 1840, carried by a large majority, after those last-mentioned were negatived.

25. Report of the Committee on British Canadian Affairs, held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Friday evening, July 31, 1840.

In connection with the recital or quotation of the preceding documents, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson, as Representatives of the Upper Canada Conference, were also heard at very great length; and every other method was used, at several successive Meetings, to obtain a full exposition of the case. After all which, the Committee agreed to recommend the following Resolutions to the Conference.

I. That the three allegations, or matters of complaint, contained in the Resolutions of the Committee on Canadian Affairs, at their Meeting on the 29th of April last, and forwarded by that Committee to the Upper Canada Conference, are regarded as fully proved: and that, after seriously considering the explanations and defence of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson, the Representatives of the Upper Canada Conference, on these points, and giving them the full weight to which they might be deemed to be entitled, the Committee are decidedly of opinion that the Representatives of the Upper Canada Conference have entirely failed to establish a justification; inasmuch as it appears that, notwithstanding all they have stated and explained, there existed,—

1. A practical superseding of the Rev. Joseph Stinson, as President, by communicating with the Governor General separately, and without his knowledge, and by acting without him, and without the Committee of the Upper Canada Conference,—of which Committee Mr. Stinson was a Member, and Chairman, (see p. 10,)—on matters