

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

METHODIST UNION.

At the present important crisis in this great movement we shall venture on no personal remarks, but content ourselves with quoting the published opinions of two of the most thoughtful and judicial minds of our Church.

The Rev. Dr. Nelles, President of Victoria University, writing before the Basis was submitted to the Quarterly Meetings remarks :—

"After reading and weighing what has been said for and against the scheme which is about to be submitted to the people of the Methodist Church of Canada, I am of opinion that our Church will make a serious mistake if she should reject the proposed 'Basis.' It is possible that a better Basis might be devised (although I am very doubtful of that), but the way does not appear to be now open to the reconsideration or modification of the scheme adopted by the Union Committee, except in so far as such modification may be subsequently agreed upon by the action of the United Church. Should the present 'Basis,' therefore, be rejected, this rejection would seem to involve the indefinite postponement, if not, indeed, the final abandonment, of Methodistic Unity. And, yet, the almost universal expression of opinion in our late General Conference, including that of most of the leading opponents of the Basis now proposed, was in favour of Union, and such expression is only one of many indications of what has been of late years throbbing in the great heart of the Church universal. I, for my part, believe this deep and widespread yearning to be of God, although I do not regard this as a reason for accepting objectionable schemes if better ones can be devised. Of this, however, we may feel assured that no plan can be sug-

gested against which some objections will not exist, and be strongly urged, especially by men who look on little questions of official precedence as of more moment than a United Methodism. . . . I had the privilege of listening carefully to the full and thorough discussions of the large and variously composed Union Committee, and I think the best was done that could have been done under all the circumstances. I see, therefore, no wisdom in blocking up the way, or in beating a retreat. . . . As the case now stands I am for Union and for the adoption of the proposed 'Basis,' and, in adopting it, the more unanimously we do so the better in every way."

His Honour, Judge Jones, of Brantford, in a published letter expresses the following weighty sentiments which we doubt not in the present grave crisis at which we have arrived will receive serious consideration :—

"As a layman of the Methodist Church of Canada, and one of the Joint Committee on Union, I desire, without discussing the merits or defects of the Basis, to consider what would be the natural results of adopting or rejecting it. . . . I believe that the strong sense of the laity will be shown in adopting the Basis. They are the ones on whom the financial burdens of the Church will largely rest in the future as they have in the past. They cannot afford the cost and expense of keeping up rival religious establishments to do the same work, and to perpetuate, not only in older Canada, but in the grand North-West, the jealousies and bitternesses of the past. The past record of the Methodist Church of Canada has been strongly in favour of Union. The other churches are now willing to unite with us on a Basis that has been approved of by a very large