

THE WESLEYAN
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1883.

FRANCE.

France just now engages a large share of the world's attention. A succession of errors has placed her in serious danger. Her refusal to act with England in the East has rendered her own isolation complete.

The death of Gambetta at a critical period is felt to be a sad loss. That statesman, exhausted at forty-four, stands in poor contrast with the greatest of living Englishmen at seventy-three, governing with increasing wisdom the destinies of a great empire.

UNION NOTES.

The Western advocates of Union have been less attentive to the East than have some others. Of the proceedings of the conventions adopting resolutions condemnatory of the proposed Basis we have been promptly informed.

The vote on Union is to be taken in the Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian Churches between the 25th of January and the middle of February. Both churches submit the question to a vote of all their approved members in society, both male and female.

during the present month; here we retain the old term "March Quarterly meeting," and often act in accordance. Intervening weeks, however, will soon pass, and therefore each official member of our Church should begin to sum up the arguments for and against union, and prepare to give a calm, intelligent decision.

The form in which the measure must be dealt with is an important matter. In accordance with the decision of the Joint Committee of the several Methodist sections at Toronto "the Basis of Union presented cannot be accepted or rejected in part."

We notice however, that in the Circular accompanying the Basis there is the following suggestion, "As it is quite possible that some parts of the Basis may be approved of, and other parts objected to, it will be advisable to have the objectionable parts indicated, and the reasons for such objection stated."

Union, as seen by others, elicits only favorable opinions. We give one or two, out of a number, for the information of our readers. The question is one which only Methodists can settle, but their conduct and the motives prompting that conduct will meet the scrutiny of a great cloud of witnesses.

Many of our readers know something of that valuable work—McClintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature. The publishers, Messrs. Harper and Brothers, New York, having completed its publication, are making it altogether a subscription work.

The annual meeting of the Y. M. C. Association was held last week. Reports from the various committees were heard. A very slight decrease in membership was noted. The various departments of usefulness have been steadily worked, and the religious services have been carefully attended to.

The discussion on Union will prove unfortunate if it should engross any pastor's thoughts as to hinder him in earnest effort for the salvation of his flock. No season of the year gives a better opportunity for continued, persistent effort. There is truth in these words:

A Presiding Elder says in one of our American contemporaries that "pastors take collections too much as they do medicine, under protest, and defer the evil hour as long as possible."

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNION.

THE TERMS: WHAT ARE WE ASKED TO GIVE UP?

The unification of Methodism in British North America seems to me exceedingly desirable, nay, absolutely necessary to the working of the Church without waste at full power.

Does the "basis" involve the sacrifice of any cherished means of grace, dear to the best hearts in Methodism? No. No! No sacrifice of the kind whatever is involved.

Would acceptance of the "basis" change the terms of membership? Not in the least.

Would entrance into the Union strip ministers of any of their rights? Not to the extent of the shadow of a shade. In the Union, they would enjoy all the rights personal and pastoral which they may possess.

Would acceptance of union imperil the rights or diminish the privileges of our laymen, official or private? None of their rights would be touched, none would be so much as menaced, and their privileges would be slightly increased.

Does the "basis" propose a change in the itinerancy? Not at all. Would its acceptance weaken the connexional principle which the best thinkers in Methodism are so desirous to maintain in undiminished strength?

on the call and qualifications of ministerial candidates at the outset? Certainly not. Would it require the United Church to accept candidates unprovided with recommendations from Quarterly meetings having knowledge of their gifts and graces? It would not.

Would union weaken the guarantees for the proper use of Church property? Would it render the misapplication of such property more likely than it is at present? Certainly not.

Surely this union movement had its origin in the best feelings of hearts glowing with the love of the common Redeemer. Let the union be accomplished in a satisfactory manner, after exhaustive discussions, after deep and close consideration, after long continued prayer; let the respective parties thereto enter it with the approval of conscience, heart and reason.

MELANCHTON.

THE UNION QUESTION.

The name to be given to the proposed new church is a matter of recommendation on the part of the Toronto Committee, and is therefore a proper subject for criticism. But as this is relegated to the first meeting of the uniting bodies—if such a meeting shall ever be reached—we may pass it over now; feeling sure that the recommendation will not be confirmed.

But the arrangements accepted by the Committee for introducing the General Superintendent into the annual Conferences, is to my mind one of the most incomplete and objectionable features in this whole scheme. That officer is to open the Annual Conference; preside over it the first day of the session; and alternately, with its President, afterwards. This implies if it does not express the espousage of the General Superintendent in that Conference, and his supreme authority there. Presiding in an Annual Conference involves most certainly the exercise of authority there; such as might place the presiding officer in antagonism to the convictions and desires of those over whom he is placed.

I enjoyed the Conference amazingly. Some one said that H. N. McTear was a born Bishop; and I saw nothing during the session of the Conference to lead one to question the truth of the remark. On two occasions there seemed to be a prospect of a dead-lock, but the Bishop some how bridged over the difficulty, carried his point, and the brethren, volens nolens, accepted the decision.

pose again the General Superintendent, in presiding on this day, to make a certain ruling. The next day the lesser President takes the chair, and finds himself unable to accord with the ruling of his superior officer. Who is the master of the situation here? Who shall succumb? One or the other must; and one or the other must therefore be that figure-head which a certain Western Doctor speaks about.

We hear a great deal here about the concessions which the M. E. Church is making to us. It gives up the name of "Bishop" and the life tenure of office. And it is urged, that we must also concede, if we would have union. But it must be remembered that concessions of a very radical nature have been made previously by us.

LOWER HORTON, JAN. '83.

FROM REV. J. M. PIKE.

DEAR EDITOR:—We are at length duly installed in our new position, and are getting through the difficult and delicate work of becoming acquainted as rapidly as possible. We arrived at the parsonage on the gloomiest of gloomy days, and the appearance of things was not very prepossessing.

Lynchburg is a quiet little village, with a Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and Colored Methodist churches. Sumner County, in which it is located, has in force a "local option" law, and however unsuccessful it may be in other places, our village is entirely free from the cursed traffic, and the people seem determined that it shall continue so.

Some years ago, by action of the General Conference, meeting in class ceased to be a test of membership; the consequence was a very general neglect of this strictly Methodist means of grace. I have had no opportunity of ascertaining the effect upon the spirituality of the Church; but I find that the most spiritually minded and most successful men are reorganizing the classes, and urging their members to attend.

on the means by which such success had been achieved. This brought him to the exhortation—"let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." Two thoughts would naturally suggest themselves to the mind in listening to the sermon—first the old type, and second, that he believed Methodism to be the type of Christianity best calculated to conquer the world for Christ.

Four new but very important enterprises were presented to the Conference, and received its hearty endorsement. In the opinion of the General Conference, which met in May last, the time had come when the church was in a position to do something for the colored race beyond anything they have done since the war.

Another offering of this General Conference was the Church Extension Society. Dr. Morton, the portly Secretary, was present, presented its claims and lifted a good collection. Dr. Young, the Missionary Secretary,—large in physical proportions, in purse, in heart and in purpose—made a special appeal on behalf of the Anglo-Chinese University now being erected in Shanghai, China.

For the last few days my spare moments have been spent in reading the "Life of Dr. Duff," a copy of which was presented to me, as well as to all the members of the Conference, by our unknown friend in Canada. It is an invaluable gift, and the donor will receive the benediction of every minister who reads it.

J. M. PIKE.

LYNCHBURG, S. C., JAN. 1883.

METHODIST UNION.

MR. EDITOR:—I read the resolution that passed the Hamilton District Convention: viz: Resolved, "That while as members of this convention we strongly sympathize with the spirit of Union, and the desirability of organic Union, etc., etc." But after reading the whole of the proceedings, I said to myself, if these brethren so strongly sympathize with organic union, what a earnest then this blast

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which such success... This brought... "Let us walk... let us mind the... thoughts would... themselves to the... sermon—first... a Methodist of... second, that he... to be the type... calculated to con... Christ. The sing... her G. O. H., wou... roughly captivat... redness, that he... to notice its... and sympathy. At... the hymns were... the people sang... important enter... to the Confer... its hearty endorse... of the General... met in May last... when the church... do something for... beyond anything... the war. An ad... to solicit funds... church, with a vie... an Institution for... pastors and en... given to authorize... proceed with the... thing, to be call... is now in course... tusta. Dr. Evans... Conference and... of the movement... rial aid. It was... antipation to hea... of Wofford Col... most eloquent ad... llaway, of Emory... distinguished hono... President of this... colored race. This... the feelings of... the people of the... ed neighbors. It... the best people... of great need of... the educated preach... their own people... is the object of... May great success... of this General... Church Extens... Morton, the portly... presented its... a good collection... sionary Secretary... al proportions, in... in purpose—made... behalf of the... versity now being... China. His per... by subscriptions... amounting to \$2000... of Wofford Col... An endowment... as deemed neces... llege in a position... other Institutions... its work more... resident, Dr. Char... filliant parts, and... ought to be spent... North-west and in... other heathen coun... It is not to be w... dered at that our... shrewdest business... men, like Mr. John... Maclonald, of Tor... and others, are... so anxious for un... Why is it... that there is such... effort to unite... railroad interests... Why, simply be... cause business men... see that it is very... expensive to keep... so many different... boards of officers... independent... sets of machinery... separate employes... and rolling stock... Hence the effort... to consolidate... and place under... one board of man... gement. "The chil... dren of this world... are wiser in their... generation than the... children of light."

ing of the sheep in mine ears and the... of the oxen which I hear." Here... no less than four resolutions... condemning the Basis on all sides... Possibly these brethren may kindly... inform the readers of the WESLEYAN... what kind of Union they believe... in. They may believe in absorption... but for one cannot make myself be... lieve that they do in Union, for how... can there be union without mutual... concessions. They put me in mind... of the fable of two birds sitting on opposite... branches. The one said to the other... "I love you, I love you;" the other... replied "Show it, show it." It seems... to appear to some that the General... Conference made a grave mistake... in appointing such a weak and un... trustworthy committee on Union. Ought... they not rather to have appointed... the members of the Hamilton, London... and Wellington Districts, so that... we could have had an intelligent... basis of Union, such as our ministers... and members could have honorably... accepted. In regard to Mr. Kettlewell's... communication, enough possibly has... been said to show its inconsistency... but there was one thing which struck... me which has not been I think... noticed. If the late Union with "the... New Connection," was very disastrous... to the London Conference, how is it... they have recovered so very soon, for... according to the writer's own showing... the ministers of that Conference are... better off than those belonging to the... other Conferences which were not... nearly as much affected by the said Union.

retaining in each an agent, while a... large portion of the field is entirely... unprovided for. Shut up within the... walls of a small partisanship, they... seem to have lost sight of the great... enterprise to which they have com... mitted themselves; or if they some... times think of it it is with a piteous... lamentation over the hindrance of a... cause in the way of which they have... placed every possible business obstruc... tion.

of sufferance, not of right; an anomaly... in Methodism. With your permission... I shall not voice the other objections... raised in a future letter. At present... allow me to say that those objections... ought not to be of sufficient magni... tude to shipwreck the proposed union.

DEAR SIR.—In one or two of the... last issues of the WESLEYAN there... have appeared articles called forth by... the letter of Rev. W. Kettlewell concern... ing the financial aspect of the... Union question.

It is not because these articles have... been marked by any force of reasoning... (for argument has been singularly... wanting) or that the writer whom... they attack is not abundantly able to... substantiate his position and meet... their assertions to the satisfaction of... all unprejudiced readers, that I have... deemed it prudent to send you a line... but because of the strange misrep... resentations and implications that appear... in those articles. Not intentionally... possibly, yet most assuredly those who... have thus been fulminating their... thunder and expressing their indigna... tion have greatly and seriously erred.

It is the old story: motives are im... pugned, unworthy and ungenerous... charges are made, sarcasm is called... to duty for something better, and... assertions are indulged in well-cal... culated to arouse feeling and engender... strife.

It is strange that this great and... grave question of "union," which... embraces so many points at issue and... therefore must be considered and... judged under many aspects, cannot be... candidly and fully discussed, thorough... ly investigated and views honestly... stated, without awakening invective... and false imputation. It is this that... is "entirely unworthy of the minist... ers and laymen of the Methodist Church..."

The first assault is against the Con... vention of the Hamilton District. The... number convened is minimized. It is... implied that it was at best but a feeble... representation, ten at most, "some... ministers who had judged the case long... ago." For the information of those... charitable brethren I would say (al... though possibly they have the knowl... edge already) the District in its... ministerial element was with but one... or two exceptions fully represented, and... to the laymen was extended a hearty... invitation to be present. It was there... fore by no means weak in numbers, whatever may have been the force of... its decisions.

The intelligence of those who... assembled is called in question. There... is no claim to a monopoly of "wise... men" in the West; we would not... thus presume, but there is claim to an... amount of judgment and common-sense... sufficient to lift above prejudice and... passion and to enable its posses... sors to view cordially and judge... honestly concerning such questions as... come before them. "Ex Cathedra" powers... we leave with our classical friend... and all like him. The information... possessed by those who met is pronounced... upon. "Before they have seen it," is... the statement made and italicized to... give it force and impressiveness, meaning... thereby that they knew but little of... this subject—they were ignorantly, grossly... ignorant. Of course they were, poor men... they needed light from Charlottesville... and Gananoque! Let it be so if it... pleases those worthy oracles. However... it might be well to state for the in... formation of others that every man present... had a well defined knowledge of the... basis, that two of the Committee on... Union were members of the Conven... tion and gave their judgment, and that... no subsequent discussion has shown... that there was a single error in... understanding at least what had been... done by the Union Committee.

The motives of those who convened... are impugned. It is charged against... them that their motives are of the... basest character—"to forestall and in... fluence the decision of the Church,"—"Se... cular and sordid reasons"—"the spirit... of craftiness"—"seekers after "the... loves and fishes." Verily this is good! If... the Hamilton District Convention had... pronounced in favor of union then of... course every motive would have been... of the purest and highest tone, their... right to meet would not have been... doubted for a moment, but because... they have ventured to question the... excellence of the basis proposed, and... as those who are vitally interested... and who profess to have in some... measure the interests of the Church at... heart, have considered and pronounced... adverse judgment on important... points at issue, therefore they are... to be maligned and heralded abroad... as full of intrigue, cunning crafty... men, influenced by unmanly and un... worthy motives. We are content to let... the Methodist public judge concerning... this. In the meantime, if your correspond... ents have nothing better to furnish for... the WESLEYAN silence would suit them... best, for "he that hath a perverse... tongue falleth into mischief."

Whether it pleases some or not, we... are able to state that the action of... the Hamilton District, taken at the... time without any reference whatever... to what others might say or do, has... met with warm approval from many... quarters, and already has been fol... lowed by similar action on the part... of several Districts in the London... Conference. This Convention, there... fore, whose decisions some delight to... tell us, "Are not to be taken as of... any value whatever"—has had some... measure of recognition and has not

ST UNION.

read the resolution... Hamilton District... Resolved, "That... of this convention... hize with the spirit... desirability of or... etc." But after... of the proceedings... these brethren so... with organic un... ble than this bleat

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THE UNION QUESTION.

DEAR SIR.—In your issue of last... week appeared a series of resolutions... unanimously adopted by the Preach... ers' meeting of the Methodist church... of this city. The object of that... manifesto is evidently intended to... defeat the "Basis of Union" agreed... to at Toronto. I am glad to know that... all the Methodist ministers of St. John... do not share these views. This... question of union is of such para... mount importance, that members of... the various Quarterly Boards through... out these Provinces should have... copies of this proposed basis of union... placed in their hands, so that they... may be able to form for themselves... intelligent and independent opinions... upon this far reaching subject. Can... not this now be done? The great ma... jority of Methodist laymen, I am... persuaded, are heartily in favor of... this union. They feel that the golden... opportunity is now presented of cement... ing into one strong and aggressive... Church organization, four separate... and in some cases it may be, antag... onistic Churches, which if allowed to... pass, may pass forever. The men, clerical... and lay, who oppose such a movement... as that take upon themselves a heavy... responsibility. Only reasons of the most... cogent kind should induce opposition.

METHODIST NOTES.

Fifteen dollars were collected by... means of a very pleasing Sunday-school... concert at Petite Riviere. This sum... will go towards the purchase of a... library.

PERSONAL.

Professor Goodwin's Agricultural... lectures at Mount Allison are being... published in full in several of the... Provincial journals.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

After having published in full the... proposed Basis of Union and the... official Circular Letter, the New York... Christian Advocate observes:—

GENERAL.

British sentries at all palaces have... been removed and Egyptian soldiers... have undertaken the duty of guard... ing them.

GLEANINGS, ETC.

The number of persons who have... suffered losses by the floods in Prussia... alone was one hundred and thirty... thousand.

DOMINION.

The reply postal cards appear to... be in very slight demand.

PERSONAL.

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PERSONAL.

On Thursday of last week, Mr. J... Wesley Smith, superintendent of the... Charles St. Sunday-school in this city... left for South Carolina, accompanied... by Mrs. Smith. He goes in search of... health, and expects to be absent... several months. During his absence... all moneys in aid of the Centennial... Fund, and Parsonage Aid and Church... Extension Fund, for both of which he... is Treasurer, should be forwarded to... Rev. S. F. Huestis, at the Book... Room.

