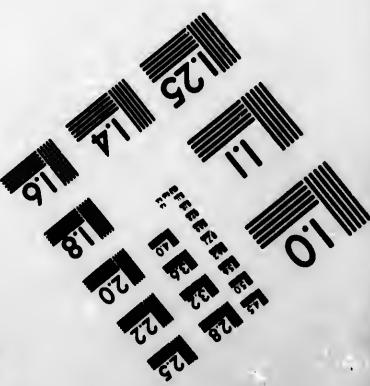
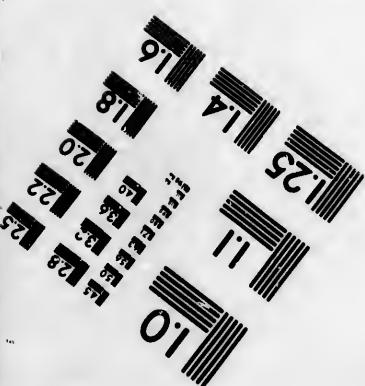
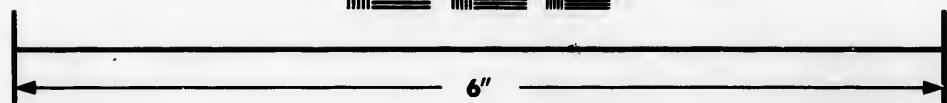
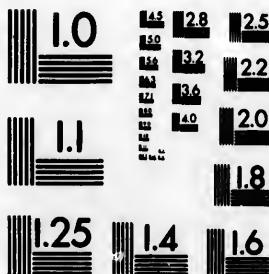


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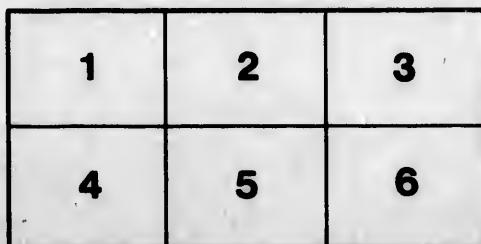
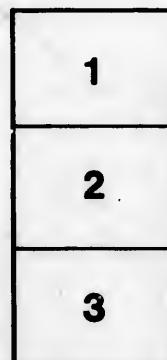
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DOCUMENTS & OBSERVATIONS

RELATING TO THE

Affairs of the Montreal Circuit.

Printed exclusively for the information of the
Members of Conference.

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1855.

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TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE
CANADA CONFERENCE.

DEAR BRETHREN,

As the title intimates, the following pages are printed exclusively for your use and information. There has been put into circulation so much misrepresentation respecting the affairs of Montreal, that I could not see any other way of placing the subject before you, so as to secure your verdict, in defence of the Laws and Constitution of Methodism. I am not unmindful of the fact, that by taking this course, I expose myself to injurious suspicions, and imputations ; but if a man shrink from duty in the time of trial, through dread of these, I apprehend he will accomplish little that is either generous or useful. God who trieth the heart, knows that I have no selfish aims. What abilities He has given me, have been devoted with more or less of success to the Ministry, and sometimes not without effect, to the defence of Methodism, when assailed from various quarters. In relation to my conduct in Montreal, I challenge the most rigid investigation, never having diverged knowingly from the plain path of duty. It is easy to imagine, that this or the other thing might have been done differently, but I sincerely hope that none of my brethren will ever be placed in the circumstances of difficulty and embarrassment, which have marked the past two years in Montreal. A mere glance at the facts will convince any candid man, that I had nothing to do with the origin of these difficulties,—that for their continuance I am not responsible, and that my efforts have been directed to prevent mischief and ruin.

The great question is, "Are the Laws of Methodism to be respected?" Certainly, they ought to be, and I am fully

persuaded that it is high time that every essential principle of British Methodism, should be engravened on the Constitution of the Canada Conference. Difficulties will arise, to meet which, there are no provisions in our existing Book of Discipline. It is better in times of general peace, calmly to prepare for any emergency that may occur from without or from within. Under the best of laws, disorder and confusion may prevail, but agitation will have its bounds, and a good Constitution will manifest its recuperative energy, and the body will be restored to a peaceful and active life. But without laws in certain peculiar circumstances, there can be hardly any limit to the mischiefs which may be attempted by evil disposed persons.

As I have intimated in the body of my letter to the Rev. John Ryerson, there is not much difficulty in adjusting the affairs of Montreal, if the law in the case is to be the standard of judgment and action. The plan of pacification adopted in 1797, contains the principles on which the Conference has not permitted any innovation. The second "regulation" says—

II. "In respect to all other temporal matters:—

1. It has been determined, that no Circuits shall be divided till such division has been approved of by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and signed by the General Stewards."

2. "That no other temporal matter shall be transacted by the District Committees, till the approbation of the respective Quarterly Meetings be first given, and signed by the Circuit Stewards."

The Rev. Dr. Beecham, in his most valuable "Essay on the Constitution of Wesleyan Methodism," after stating what was the practice before 1797, says: "The plan for dividing a Circuit is now to be agreed on at the Quarterly Meeting, and signed by the Circuit Steward, before it can come into the District Meeting at all; and the District Meeting has nothing more to do in the business than to approve of, or reject, the plan proposed, or to refer it back to the Quarterly Meeting for revision."

It is understood also, to be a settled principle in Methodism, that parties aggrieved—minorities—have the right of

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appeal to the Conference. Dr. Beecham says, “There is an original principle in the Constitution of Methodism, which did not undergo any change whatever, in 1795 and 1797,—the principle that any individual, or body of individuals, have a right to appeal to the Conference for redress of grievances.” On the subject of division of Circuits, the Doctor says, “Let us suppose, now, that, in the judgment of the friends generally, the division of a Circuit would be of most pernicious consequence; but the Superintendent and a few others, being eager to effect it, manage, by craft and manœuvre, to obtain a majority in its favour at the Quarterly Meeting, and then, the Superintendent, by his influence, induces the District Committee to sanction the proposal; what we should like to know, would be the Constitutional resource of the Circuit, providing that there is no appeal from the District Committee?” * * * “Would not the Connexion have been made to resound again with exclamations against the tyranny of the Conference, in artfully placing one of its own Committees—the District Committee—between itself and the people, as represented in their different local meetings, and thus making the inequitable vote of the District Committee the reason for closing its ears against any appeal from the Circuit.”

Those who are acquainted with the affairs of Montreal, will need no *italics* to mark the force and application of many of the above remarks. At the present time, the aggrieved parties lodge their appeal before the proper tribunals, in the prayerful hope that justice will be done, and they await the issue, trusting in the God of truth and righteousness.

W. S.

MONTREAL, May 1, 1855.

*To the Reverend JOHN RYERSON, Co-delegate of
The Canada Conference.*

REV. SIR,

The mournful circumstances in which the Methodist societies of Montreal have been placed during the past year, render it necessary and imperative that I should address myself to some one in high official relations to the Canada Conference, with a view to the statement of the whole case, and in order that the facts may be known to the whole Conference. To whom could I more appropriately address myself than to you as Co-delegate of the Canada Conference, appointed to that high and honorable office, because of your unwearied zeal and uniform assiduity in the maintenance and promulgation of the essential characteristics of Wesleyan Methodism. We are a connection—a body—and if the figure be not unjust, then when one member suffers every member suffers with it. This would be so, even if the member were small and less honorable, how much more so when the member suffering is no less than the cause in Montreal—a city which Methodistically has ranked so high, and is entitled to more than ordinary consideration and respect. If those who here regard themselves aggrieved were an ignorant, disaffected faction of Church disturbers, I would scorn to write a word in their defence. If, by unlawfully seeking for organic changes, they had exposed themselves to church discipline, and deserved rebuke, I would, as a sound and unchangeable lover of constitutional Methodism, be prepared at a proper time, and in a proper way, most rigidly to administer that rebuke; but they do not belong to such a class of men—it is an aggravation of their wrongs to represent them as rebellious or disaffected. If it be possible to judge of the motives and feelings of Christian men from what they say and do, then I take leave to affirm that Methodism has no where warmer hearts of glowing friend-

ship and love. But that is no reason why unjust measures should be imposed upon them, or why coercive schemes should be devised and enforced in order to accomplish even desirable ends. A crisis has come.—The doing of a simple act of justice may possibly restore order and peace. You, as the co-delegate of the Canada Conference, have this matter laid before you ; first, because your associate higher in office is implicated in producing the disorder and secession which exists ; and secondly, because you were deputed to execute, and did officially enforce, what the brethren regarded, and what I considered an unwise and despotic decree, founded on no Wesleyan law—on no Wesleyan precedent, and incapable of defence on any ground of Scripture or reason. I trust no one will hazard his reputation by an attempt to vindicate the propriety or prudence of what has been done in this city by the highest authorities in the Methodist Church. If it could be demonstrated that such proceedings were Wesleyan, then the demonstrator will have offered the strongest reasons why the system should be condemned, as alike hostile to the rights of a Christian brotherhood, and detrimental to the peace and order of society.

Considering the recent relationship of this district to the Canada Conference, it may be said by those who bear rule in that body that the matter having transpired under another form of discipline, it does not belong to them to investigate the subject or listen to the voice of complaint. I trust this course will not be contemplated, but that if the Missionary Committee should not reply to the communication which I have forwarded to them in consequence of our union to the Canada Conference, that therefore a most thorough investigation shall take place in reference to the affairs of the Wesleyan church in the city of Montreal. What preliminary steps may be taken by the Montreal District Meeting, if such be held, or by the Eastern Canada District, I have no means of knowing, other than that it is not possible for the subject to be untouched, but will be necessarily brought under review. The question will not be whether it be most advantageous for Montreal Circuit to be divided into three parts, and all argument to that effect must be considered

irrelevant. The questions are, has the measure of division been brought about in a lawful and constitutional manner? And ought the official brethren to be compelled to adopt and carry out that plan against their oft expressed will to the contrary? In ordinary investigations, the dispute would be settled with ease and speed.—We should first ascertain the letter of the law itself in such case made and provided—and then enquire whether the requirements of that law had been fulfilled. But when an extra-judicial power interposes, with special prerogatives and assumptions above law, then the only question to be settled is the simple one, 'are the parties prepared to submit, to whom that power shall be applied?' On such principles do matters here stand. All parties agreed to be governed by written laws—open to the inspection of every one. By those laws matters were regulated and decided up to a given point—no Quarterly Meeting—District Meeting, or other meeting, ever suggested the idea of disregarding the law, and soliciting the exercise of prerogative. It was at the District Meeting of 1854, when the Rev. E. Wood, President of the Canada Conference, then also Chairman of the Eastern Canada District, declared, on his own responsibility, that Montreal was and should be three Circuits. Did he then utter a decision agreeably to Wesleyan law? or if he were really invested with prerogative, did he exercise that prerogative wisely, prudently, or discreetly? I beg leave to answer both those questions in the negative, and I am persuaded that the history of the case and the consequences will fully bear out my answer.

The communication I had the honor to forward to the President of the British Wesleyan Conference, the other day, contains a careful review of the whole matter, accompanied with authentic copies of documents all bearing upon the subject, and designed to elucidate it. That entire document is now in your possession and is to be regarded as a part of my official communication to you. As such it is copied and paged, and is as follows:—

MONTREAL, April 9th, 1855.

*To the Reverend JOHN FARRAR, President of
The British Conference.*

REV. & DEAR SIR,

Although it is most painful for me to have to make such a communication as the present, yet a clear sense of duty compels me to do so. You will be filled with regret, that at a time when we were all rejoicing at the consummation of an union which promises so well for the general prosperity of Methodism in Canada, there should arise in any place, causes of discontent, and that actual secession should have taken place. More especially will you be grieved to know that it is in Montreal where this unhappy state of things exists, and that there is every probability of the breach becoming wider, unless God in his mercy interpose by some agency not yet apparent to us, and stay the progress of desolation. It is not, however, with reference to the union of this district with the Canada Conference, that the dissatisfaction exists.—The evil is a local one, and though its effects may spread, yet at present it is confined to the Montreal Station, and respects the administration of the Wesleyan discipline in the city of Montreal itself. As briefly as possible I beg to lay the case before you, giving you authentic copies of documents necessary to elucidate the matter, and to enable you to understand the cause of the existing difficulties.

The reason for the present state of discontent and secession, is alleged to be the forcible or coercive division of the Montreal Circuit into three, without the consent of the quarterly meeting, and in opposition to the almost unanimous remonstrance of the official members connected with the church in this city. This will perhaps create surprise in your minds when, on looking at the English minutes of Conference since 1851, Montreal appears either as two or three Circuits, and you may have supposed that this division had been permanently effected, not only lawfully but peaceably and satisfactorily. It is therefore necessary to state how

this division arose, why, and on what conditions. This will be apparent by some of the documents, but a few remarks will set the origin of the matter plainly before you.

At the district meeting of 1851 the committee had given instructions that the Rev. Wm. Squire should take the Quebec Station. That arrangement was not carried out. The Quebec friends desired the services of Bro. DeWolfe, and sent a deputation to our district for that object. Their request was reluctantly granted, but it rendered necessary other changes. It was proposed that Mr Squire should take Mr. De Wolfe's place in Montreal, but here a difficulty seemed to arise. Mr. Jenkins had been four years in Montreal, and many objected to his being superseded as superintendent of Montreal. Mr. Squire did not wish it, and if I recollect right decidedly objected to it. But it seemed necessary to appoint him to Montreal—there was no other opening in the district. It was then suggested, that to meet the case there should be a temporary division of Montreal, and that the charges being separate, each would have a superintendency and therefore equality. Acting on the principle of the discipline that it was not competent to the district to divide the Circuit without the consent of the Quarterly Meeting, it was considered right and proper to obtain the consent of the official members. The emergency had arisen at a time when only a special meeting could be held, and there was no provision for that. It was deemed right, therefore, to enquire of the leaders' meetings, separately, whether they would consent to the arrangement. I find no record of any proceedings taken by the leaders connected with the St. James Street or Centre church, but it was understood that they had concurred. The Quebec Suburbs or East Church leaders' meeting did not concur. The West Church or Griffintown leaders did conditionally concur. This was the origin of the movement; It was an arrangement for temporary purposes, not to be perpetuated without the consent of the parties consulted, and who yielded to the wishes of the ministerial brethren under the circumstances. I am not aware of any previous movement for the division of Montreal, and find nothing on record, either in the minutes of the district or city quarterly meetings, to lead to such a supposition.

The following is the Resolution passed by the leaders meeting of the Quebec Suburbs or East Church.

[COPY.]

May 27, 1851.—Present: Rev. C. Lavell, Brs. Stephens, Rogers, Leggo, J. McMillan, Raffan.

Resolved :—After prayerful and deliberate consideration of all the circumstances connected with this important subject, it was mutually agreed upon that it is neither desirable nor expedient at the present time to effect a separation of our present connection with our brethren of St. James Street Church.

Annexed is a copy of the Resolution passed by the leaders meeting of the West or Griffintown church, held Monday evening, May 26th, Rev. C. DeWolfe in the chair. Present, Messrs. J. Mathewson, J. Patton, G. E. Jaques, Robt. Wright, E. C. Longley, F. Francis, and James Boyd.

[COPY.]

A full meeting of the leaders and stewards of the society having been called for this evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration a proposal made by the district meeting regarding a division of the Montreal Circuit which would have the effect of setting apart this portion of the society, and forming it into a separate circuit. All the official brethren were present, except Bro. C. Campbell. Rev. Charles DeWolfe in the chair.

It was proposed that this meeting do recommend the division of the Montreal circuit, and that St. Gabriel Street chapel and cause, be constituted a separate station, under the designation of the Montreal West circuit, and that the separation be considered as an experiment and not as a permanent arrangement.

It was then agreed by the meeting to invite the Rev. Mr. Squire to take the superintendency of what was to be called the West circuit. The transactions of these leaders' meetings were verbally communicated to the district meeting, but there is no record either in the journal or minutes of our district for that year in relation to the matter. The Stations were read Montreal East, John Jenkius, Charles Lavell,—Montreal West, William Squire. So that the East included the Quebec Suburbs church, as the leaders there did not accede to the arrangement, or which is the fact, the necessity for the arrangement did not reach them. Mr. Lavell, however, left the district and returned to Upper Canada.

In the District letter for 1851 is the following paragraph :

" respecting Brother Squire's appointment to Quebec we have found it necessary to deviate in some measure from the suggestion made in your letter to us, but as he will himself correspond with you on this subject it is not necessary that we should here assign the reasons which have prompted us to decide as we have done."

The arrangements above suggested were carried out. Mr. Squire took charge of Griffintown as a separate circuit. By his influence and the Divine blessing the cause was sustained. The District Meeting of 1852 approached, and at the March Quarterly meeting of 1852 the subject of continuing a separate circuit was considered. At that meeting the following business was transacted.

[Copy.]

It was proposed by the steward that we petition the next District Meeting for the re-appointment of our present Minister, the Rev. Wm. Squire to this Circuit for the ensuing year, which was carried unanimously—testified by rising. It was then moved by Brother J. Patton, and seconded by Brother Jaques, and carried unanimously—that whereas at a special meeting of the official members of this church held here on the first of May last—the Rev. C. DeWolfe in the chair—it was unanimously resolved that this portion of the circuit be set apart (not permanently but) as an experiment for one year, the same being subsequently submitted to the district meeting and approved, likewise to a special meeting of the official members of the whole city held in St. James Street vestry and also approved, and inasmuch as the time so named is approaching a termination. It is now unanimously resolved that the above named arrangement be continued for another year from the next District Meeting; provided the Rev. Wm. Squire, our present minister, be re-appointed, but should the district meeting see fit to remove him, then and in that case we again revert to our position previous to the 26th of May, 1851.

Moved by Brother Robt. Wright, seconded by Brother J. Mathewson, that a copy of the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the next district meeting, also a notice of the same to the steward of the east circuit,—passed unanimously.

It appears, from a note appended by the steward, that the foregoing resolution passed a full leaders' meeting on the 5th of April, and was confirmed at the Quarterly meeting held on the 13th of the same month, 1852. There was an adjourned meeting held on the 11th of May, and it would seem that no answer had been received from the steward of the east circuit, and therefore the following resolution was passed:

[COPY.]

Resolved,—That as the Quarterly Meeting of the Montreal east circuit has returned no answer to our request for an extension of the time of trial for our remaining a separate circuit, we determine in the event of our not receiving any favorable answer to our request before the approaching District Meeting, we revert to our former relation to the other portions of the Wesleyan Society in this city—"Passed Unanimously."

The resolutions passed by the regular quarterly meeting were laid before the district meeting, accompanied by the following letter:—

[COPY.]

MONTRÉAL, May 19, 1852.

To the Chairman and Ministers of the Eastern District assembled.

REV. SIR AND BRETHREN,

"I herewith beg to enclose the accounts of the West Circuit, and a series of resolutions passed at our recent Quarterly Meeting, by which you will perceive the sense of the brethren to be that our position as a separate circuit be continued for another year, with the confident expectation that our esteemed pastor will be re-appointed. You are aware that our position was undertaken as an experiment for one year, to which our friends of St. James' Street were a party;—as a matter of course, it follows that their consent be first obtained, and this appears to be so impressed on the official brethren of this circuit, that as a mere business arrangement it would not be prudent for us to continue it without their full concurrence; hitherto, however, we have not received it. The matter is now therefore referred to you for disposal."

I Remain, dear Brethren,

. Yours, very truly,

HUGH MATHEWSON,
Steward of the West Circuit.

At this period also the subject came before the Leaders Meeting connected with the Quebec Suburbs or East Church. The following is from the records:

[Corr.]

MAY 17, 1852.—Present: Rev. G. Dickson, Messrs. Rogers, Stephens, Raffan, J. McMillan, D. McMillan, Rennick.

With reference to the general meeting of Stewards and Leaders held in St. James Street, on May 28, 1851, at which it was resolved to place the Society in Lagauchetiere Street as a separate circuit, as an experiment for one year; and that term having now expired, the Stewards and Leaders of Lagauchetiere Street Chapel, at their adjourned Quarterly Meeting

have resolved, after mature consideration, from the experience of the past year, that provided Mr. Dickson shall be re-appointed to this Society, they have consented to be officially separated for the ensuing year, with the power of reverting to their former position, should it be deemed expedient at the end of that period.

The District Meeting of 1852 assembled in Montreal on the 19th of May. On the 22nd the affairs of Montreal were considered, and the following resolution was passed, and is entered on the Journal :

[Copy.]

Resolved,—"That in reference to the communication received from the Montreal West Circuit, the District Meeting unanimously consents to its separation from the other portions of the work in Montreal, on the same terms as the division of last year; viz., that such separation shall be considered as binding only for one year, as an experiment."

The Rev. Mr. Lavell, who had been borrowed from the Canada Conference, did not remain in Montreal after the District Meeting of 1851. The East portion of the city had been supplied in a casual way—Mr. Churchill was there a little while, and then a young man named Dickson was found, who came to the aid of Montreal, and was appointed to supply the East Church, under the superintendency of Mr. Jenkins.—At the District of 1852, the stations were read and confirmed, thus: Montreal Centre, John Jenkins;—Montreal West, William Squire;—Montreal East, G. N. A. F. T. Dickson. Brother Dickson, at the earnest request of Mr. Jenkins was ordained, for the purpose of rendering unnecessary the official connection of Mr. Jenkins with the East portion of the city. Thus the work in Montreal proceeded after the District Meeting as three circuits.

In October of this year the lamented death of the Rev. Wm. Squire occurred. Application was made to the President of the Canada Conference for Ministerial aid. Mr. Pierson was sent and labored under the superintendency of Mr. Jenkins. As the District Meeting of 1853 approached, the matter of relation and union was necessarily again reverted to. At the Quarterly Meeting of the West Circuit the following business was transacted:

[Copy.]

Present: Rev. J. Jenkins in the Chair, Rev. T. Pierson, Messrs J Mathewson, Jaques, Wright, Francis, Boyd, Sargison, Bowes, Hadley, Palmer, and H. Mathewson.

A conversation was held regarding the present position and future prospects of this Circuit, when the following preamble and resolution was proposed, viz.

Whereas in accordance with resolutions passed at a meeting of the Leaders and Stewards of the Wesleyan Church, Griffintown, on the 26th of May, 1851, that an experimental separation be made from the Montreal Circuit for one year, and whereas at the Quarterly Meeting held here on the thirteenth of April, 1852, it was agreed and resolved that said experiment be extended for another year, which was approved of and agreed to by the District Meeting held last May, and inasmuch as such experiment has been fully tried during a period of nearly two years, it is now the opinion of this meeting that the interests of Methodism in this part of the city will be best promoted by this circuit reverting to its former position as an integral part of the Montreal Circuit. Therefore,

Resolved,—That this meeting desires to be again united with and included in the Montreal Circuit, thereby abandoning the present isolated position and taking that which it held previous to the District Meeting of 1851.

After some conversation on the above, the following was offered as an amendment.

That this meeting having been authoritatively informed that great changes are to take place in the position of Methodism in Canada East, within twelve months from this time, which changes are likely to alter our position as a church in this city, therefore,

Resolved,—After mature consideration that under these circumstances it is willing that the West Circuit should sustain an independent position for the coming year, providing the District Meeting will appoint to it the Rev. George Douglas, with the distinct understanding, however, that we be placed in precisely the same position as it regards our privilege of reverting to the old arrangement at the District Meeting of 1854, as at the District Meeting of 1853. But if this cannot be granted, this meeting resolves to fall back upon the former arrangement, as subsisting prior to the District Meeting of 1851.

After some conversation and discussion on the resolution and amendment, the amendment was carried by a majority of two, six voting in favor of it, and four for the original motion."

The Steward was instructed to convey the proceedings to the Circuit Steward of the Centre Circuit, to be laid before that Quarterly Meeting. This was done, and the following proceedings were had in relation thereto:—

[COPY.]

MONTREAL, 20th April, 1853.

H. MATHEWSON Esq., *Circuit Steward, West Circuit*

DEAR SIR,

I have been instructed to transmit to you the following resolution, passed at our last quarterly meeting, in reference to the amendment recently adopted by the quarterly meeting of the west circuit.

Yours truly,

R. CAMPBELL,
Circuit Steward, Montreal Circuit.

"Extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Central Circuit, held on the 12th April, 1853:

Resolved,—That this meeting unanimously agrees to the propositions contained in the amendment passed at the last quarterly meeting of the West Circuit, in reference to the arrangements for that station for the ensuing year, and requests its chairman to employ his influence with the approaching District Meeting to have them confirmed."

The Quarterly Meeting of the East Circuit having, during the year obtained the ministerial services of the Rev. G. Douglas, instead of those of Mr. Dickson, who had been removed, remonstrated against Mr. Douglas' removal and requested the district meeting to re-appoint him. In the letter to the District Meeting it is said:—"We feel it incumbent to state the inability of the circuit to do more than sustain the expenses of a single minister in the forthcoming year, 1853-4, and therefore request, if consistent with other demands of the district, that the Rev. G. Douglas may be appointed to take charge of the above named circuit," adding "this station has strong and prior claims to any other to the labours of Mr. Douglas."

The above documents and the state of affairs in Montreal came under the consideration of the district meeting, which met in Montreal on the 19th May, 1853. The Rev. Enoch Wood presided. During the sittings of the district he met the official brethren of Montreal for consultation. The West Circuit was not likely to get the single man asked for, and was not willing to assume the responsibilities of independency and a minister with family. The official brethren, with perfect unanimity, resolved therefore to revert to their original position—the occasion for a separation having passed away. Mr. Wood had no reason to suppose that the separation could be

continued with safety. The district meeting of 1852 had agreed to the separation for "*one year only*," and the leaders did not think that any controversy was necessary on so simple a question, which had been defined in writing, and which with its limitations and proviso's, had been solemnly covenanted by the district meeting. When the subject was discussed in the district meeting—the principal speaker was the Rev. J. Jenkins, who was supposed to know what was best for Montreal, and he did certainly labour to convince the district that separation would be most productive of good. No assent to such separation was obtained from any official board in Montreal. But the district meeting transacted business relating to Montreal, the record of which I extract from the journal, under date May 26th, Thursday.

[COPY.]

"The brethren, after considering the case of the Montreal West Circuit, passed the following resolution, "that this meeting is deeply and solemnly convinced that it would be injurious to the cause of Methodism, and of Christianity in this city, to discontinue the existing circuit arrangements, and recommends to our official friends, and to the ministers now stationed, the employment of their influence to prevent any change in the present order of the circuits."

The appointments for Montreal made at this District Meeting are thus recorded on our minutes :

Montreal Centre, John Jenkins.

" West, William Scott.

" East, George Douglas.

The Rev. John Jenkins, in addition to having been several years in Montreal, was considered qualified to be the chairman of this district, and was so appointed by the Conference of 1853. But in the interval he was regarded as *pro tem.* chairman, and was in a double capacity to deal with the question of the state of Montreal. According to appointment I came to Montreal, and having pastoral charge of what was called the west circuit, exerted my influence according to the recommendation of the district meeting to continue it as a separate circuit. I even went so far as to pledge myself to be content to receive as quarterage, &c., whatever they should raise among themselves in the usual way, and thereby put

out of view the pecuniary disability. The brethren, however, did not concur, and felt that further debate was trifling with their privileges, and not likely to promote good in any way.

[COPY.]

A meeting of the official members of the Wesleyan church, Griffintown, was held in the vestry No. 3, at the close of the Monday evening Prayer Meeting, June 27th, 1853. Present :—The Rev. Wm. Scott in the chair, Messrs. J. Mathewson, G. A. Sargison, G. E. Jacques, F. Francis, J. Bowes, E. C. Longley, Robt. Wright, James Boyd, and D. Hadley.

It was moved by Brother Jacques and seconded by Brother Bowes, and unanimously

Resolved,—That this meeting, after further and calm deliberation on the subject of the re-union of the Montreal Circuit, is of the opinion that in justice to itself no further proposition can be made to promote an adjustment of the present difficulty, but that the brethren unanimously desire the minister and brethren of St. James Street church to act on the resolution passed previous to the district meeting, viz., to fall back on the old arrangement as subsisting prior to the district meeting of 1851, thereby being again united with and included in the Montreal circuit, abandoning their present isolated position and again becoming an integral part of the Montreal Circuit.—Carried unanimously.

H. MATHEWSON,
Secretary.

The above resolution was laid before the leaders' meeting of St. James Street, and the following communication was received by Mr. H. Mathewson.

[Copy.]

MONTRÉAL, July 6, 1853.

H. MATHEWSON, Esq., Circuit Steward, West Circuit.

DEAR SIR,

The accompanying resolution, which was adopted at our Leaders' meeting held in St. James Street Church on the evening of the fourth instant, I have been instructed to forward to you as Circuit Steward of the Circuit.

Yours truly,

R. CAMPBELL,
Circuit Steward, Central Circuit.

Resolution passed at Leaders' meeting held in St James Street Church, on the evening of the 4th July, 1853.

That this meeting is still decidedly of the opinion that the cause of Methodism will be seriously injured by a reversion to the original constitution of the Montreal Circuit,—so decided is this opinion, that if a

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majority of the official members of West Circuit consent to remain in their present isolated position, this meeting agrees to do all in its power to meet any deficiency of circuit income, that may take place among them in the course of the year,—thereby carrying out the spirit of the resolution passed 26th May, 1851, by the official members of the western part of the city, in the following words, "that this meeting do gratefully accept the offer of the friends in the other part of the city, to render them some pecuniary assistance in case it should be required, in order to make up at the end of the year the full allowance of the Minister," but should a majority of the Stewards, Leaders, and Local Preachers now refuse this offer, and still determine to fall back upon the resolution passed at a meeting of the Central Circuit, held on the 20th April, 1853, then the members of this meeting agree that the West and East Circuits form with the Central, but one Circuit as formerly."

The foregoing document was laid before the Leaders' meeting of Griffintown on Thursday evening the seventh of July, 1853, after preaching:

[COPY.]

Present:—The Rev. Wm. Scott in the Chair—Brethren Jaques, Wright, Boyd, Bowes, Francis, Longley, and H. Mathewson. After a conversation on the resolution sent from St. James Street, the following was moved by H. Mathewson and seconded by Brother Jaques:

Resolved,—That this meeting having heard the resolution passed at an official meeting of the Central Circuit on Monday evening the fourth of July, again unanimously reiterate their desire to be re-united with the Montreal Centre and East Circuits, thereby becoming "one undivided whole," and do now accordingly revert to the old arrangement as existing previous to the District Meeting of 1851. Carried unanimously....

The above resolution was sent to Robert Campbell, Esq., as Circuit Steward, with the following note:

[COPY.]

DEAR SIR,

Enclosed I beg leave to hand you the resolution passed at a special Leaders' meeting held in Griffintown last evening, in reply to yours of the fourth instant, from which you will see that the union is now effected. Hoping that this may tend to the advancement of vital Christianity amongst us,

I am, yours very truly,
H. MATHEWSON."

The East portion of the city having the single man they asked for, was satisfied to remain separate for this year, and passed the annexed resolution concerning the matter:

[Copy.]

July 11, 1853. Present: Rev. G. Douglas, Bros. Rogers, Raffan, Stephens, Leggo, McLaren, Laughlin.

With reference to the resolutions of the Central and West Circuits, dated the fourth and seventh instants, referred to the East Circuit for their opinion on the subject of reverting to the position occupied previously to 1851, (viz.,) the three churches forming one Circuit. The desire of the East Circuit board is, that seeing no reason why any change should be made in their present position, the District Meeting having consented to their remaining a separate Circuit for another year, have unanimously determined to continue as at present until that time is expired.

Down to this date, since the District Meeting, as recommended, the preachers had carefully considered the whole matter—fully reviewed it—Mr. Jenkins received instructions from Mr Wood sufficiently definite to authorize him to unite the Circuits if all parties were agreeable. As Chairman of the District pro-tem, he felt he ought to do what was proper in the case, having due regard to the laws of the connexion, and the unity and peace of Methodism in Montreal. Such were Mr. Jenkins' personal views, that if he could, with any show of propriety or safety, continue the separation, he would have done so. We faithfully and seriously conversed over the matter; I expressed and reiterated my willingness to work Griffintown separately, but stated my conviction that it would not be proper to force that measure upon the brethren, considering the circumstances, and all that had passed. The preachers, therefore, and official members, generally concurred in the desirableness, none doubting the lawfulness of again constituting Montreal one Circuit. It was by most regarded as one, only temporarily divided for the accommodation and convenience of ministerial brethren.

On the 18th of July, 1853, a meeting of all the official members of the Wesleyan Church in the city of Montreal was called by the superintendent. The following is the authentic record of what took place at that time.

[Copy.]

Minutes of a meeting of the official members of the several Circuits of the city of Montreal, held in the vestry of Great St. James Street Church, Monday evening, July 18, 1853:

Present: Rev. J. Jenkins in the chair; Rev. Wm. Scott, Rev. G. Douglas, Rev. J. Douglas, supernumerary; Brethren Hilton, Galway, Young, Latham, Longley, Francis, Leggo, Laughlin, McLaren, Raffan, Rogers, Lunn, and R. Campbell.

Meeting opened with singing and prayer. After some little delay the Chairman stated and explained the object of the meeting. Brethren came into the Meeting during the discussion, viz: James Douglas, Boyd, Hadley, Jaques, Alien, Cowan, Stephens, Bowes, and Wilson.

It was moved by Brother Raffan, (East church,) seconded by Brother Longley, (West church,) supported by Brother Allen, (Centre church,) and

Resolved, That this united meeting of the official members from the several Circuits of this city, are unanimously of the opinion, that under existing circumstances it would be inexpedient to continue in their separate condition as three Circuits, and are now agreed to revert to the position sustained previously to the District Meeting of 1851, and form again one united Circuit.—Carried unanimously.

It was then moved by Bro. Hilton, (Centre church,) Seconded by Bro. Raffan, (East church,) supported by Bro. Longley, (West church,) and

Resolved,—That the members of this Meeting, are seriously impressed with the necessity of giving themselves to Christ and his church, by an humble renewal of their covenant engagements, and the consecration of themselves in prayer for the revival of the work of God. Convincing that unity of faith and love are essential to godly prosperity, this meeting is resolved to cultivate brotherly love and Christian zeal, and look for the gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit to give effect to the preaching of the word and all the means of grace.

It was decided and agreed that this be considered our June Quarterly Meeting.

There being no other business of importance, after prayer, the meeting adjourned.

Thus, in the most solemn and religious manner possible, the Montreal Circuit returned to its state of unity, and the brethren renewed their covenant to serve God and glorify Christ. In this solemn act neither preachers nor other official members considered themselves as contravening the resolution of the District Meeting, which had only recommended another course, on the pleadings of one who now really believed the thing could not be done, but that it was both lawful and proper to return to the status of 1851.

During the summer of 1853, Mr. Jenkins was out of health, and retired with his family to the country to recruit. My duties and responsibilities were thereby increased. He preached only occasionally, and did scarcely any thing of a

pastoral character. When he returned to Montreal it was only for a season, and was between Philadelphia and Montreal several times during that summer. In October, it became known that he was about to unite with the Presbyterians, and take charge of Calvary Church, Philadelphia. His resignation soon followed, being dated 2nd November, 1853. He had from about the 20th of October ceased official functions among us, and the duties and responsibilities of the superintendency had necessarily devolved on me. The secession of Mr. Jenkins came upon our beloved people with surprise and mortification. After he had been so long upheld and applauded, cared for, respected, and more than supported, so suddenly to withdraw was not a circumstance that could happen without some excitement and many fears. During this time I was in constant communication with the Rev. E. Wood, President of the Canada Conference. He was good enough to correspond with the Committee, and they kindly sent to the relief of Montreal brother Bishop, who arrived here somewhere about the middle of December. Shortly after, or early in January, the Rev. E. Wood paid us a visit. He was rejoiced to find Montreal in a state of peace, unity and prosperity. He met with us in our December Quarterly Meeting, which in this city is held in January. He spoke kindly, freely, and very encouragingly, but on no occasion, at no time, nor under any circumstances, did Mr. Wood intimate, in the most remote manner, that the union of the Montreal Circuit, effected in July previously, was in any sense wrong or contrary to the discipline of Methodism, or at variance with the recommendation of the District Meeting. Mr. Wood met the society on Monday evening—the Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday evening, and left the preachers and people with the impression that the course taken was satisfactory to him, and was evidently sanctioned of God. He desired, and I believe obtained, a copy of the resolutions by which the union had been effected, and which he was to forward to the Committee at home, that they might be acquainted with our state. Our city plan was then made out and printed. I enclose you a copy. For the revival of the work of God we agreed to hold a series of

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special services. These were owned of God ; many conver-
sions took place in all our churches. God was with us, and
all seemed to put a cheerful courage on. At our last Quar-
terly Meeting all seemed peaceful and prosperous. With
but few exceptions there was entire satisfaction, and a desire
that we should, as preachers, all remain, and the work in
Montreal be carried on as it had been for the previous six
months. The District Meeting arrived, and commenced
its business on the 19th of May, 1854. No exception was
taken to the position of the Montreal Circuit. Mr. Wood,
who came as our Chairman and presided, never in any way
hinted to me that it was to be reversed or ought to be. The
report of our religious state was read in due order as the
report of one Circuit, and no objection offered. That report
was as follows:—

[COPY.]

MONTREAL CIRCUIT REPORT.

The religious state of the Societies in Montreal has been affected by cir-
cumstances of peculiar trial and agitation. God has graciously protected
his work from any serious injury, and for some months past our Societies
and Congregations have experienced the reviving influences of the Holy
Spirit. Christian harmony and peace prevail throughout our Classes.
The congregations of two churches out of the three are much greater
than at the beginning of the year, and there are many manifestations of the
divine goodness and favor. Since the beginning of the present year,
many conversions to God have taken place, and at the last quarterly visit-
itation, 78 persons were received on trial into our Classes. The full and
accredited church members, number 605 ; on trial, 78.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

Nothing occurred to mar the prospect of union and peace,
until the third reading of the Stations. The Montreal
Quarterly Meeting had desired me to lay before the District
the resolutions respecting our status. There had been no
opportunity of doing so, and would not be, if the appoint-
ments for Montreal were read without remark. When,
therefore, the Chairman commenced the reading of the Sta-
tions, I begged the privilege of laying the resolutions en-
trusted to me upon the table and before the brethren. This
privilege the Chairman peremptorily denied me—and then
in a very vehement manner declared that Montreal was not

one but three Circuits, and stated that he would take the responsibility of continuing it so. My only remark then was, that I had done my duty in laying the resolutions before the brethren, or, at least in attempting to do so. The Stations were read—

Montreal Centre..... To be supplied.
 “ *West.....* WILLIAM SCOTT.
 “ *East.....* J. H. BISHOP.

With that arrangement I was satisfied, having always, as a servant of Christ, taken cheerfully the work assigned me by brethren; but I did fear, that so hasty and unexpected a measure would be distasteful and dangerous. If, however, the division was accepted after all that had passed, most cheerfully would I concur and regard the after action or acceptance of the Leaders' Meetings as a sufficient compliance with the terms of the discipline, which required the consent of the Quarterly Meeting before a Circuit could be divided. It was soon evident, that the measure would not be accepted —a protest against it was laid on the table of the District next morning, from the West End, and in the afternoon from the East End. At this time, Mr. Wood had left for home, having departed from Montreal on the afternoon of the day when he pronounced his judgment.

It was decided by the District Meeting, Mr. Tomkins in the Chair, that the matter should be again referred to Mr. Wood, by the deputation of our District to the Canada Conference. There is no evidence that any thing was done or said on the subject. At Belleville Conference, after the deputation left, I could only ascertain from the President that he adhered to his decision. The Rev. Wellington Jeffers was appointed to the Centre Circuit. But the official brethren East and West declined to organize or to consider themselves as separated from the Centre. After the arrival of Mr. Jeffers, the Leaders' Meeting of Griffintown, adopted a memorial to Mr. Wood, setting forth the facts, and praying “to be allowed to proceed with the work of Methodism as it was before the last District Meeting.” Similar views were entertained by the other brethren at the East end of the city, and by most in the Centre. The respectful memo-

rial forwarded to the President, besides being officially the remonstrance of the Leaders at the West end, was also signed by those who concurred in its views. Out of about 30 male official persons in Montreal, the document was signed by 26, showing a unanimity of feeling and sentiment which could not be misunderstood. I think the memorial was dated the 5th of July, and it was sincerely hoped that the President would come down and endeavour to adjust the difficulty. He did not—nor did any communication reach any parties from him which could be of any service in healing the wounds which had been inflicted.

About the 1st of August, the following letter was received from Mr. Wood, and I furnish you with a copy that you may be in possession of the views entertained by Mr. Wood, and the ground which he thought right to take.

[Copy.]

TORONTO, YORKVILLE, July 28th, 1854.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The division of the Montreal Circuits engaged the attention of the District Meeting in 1853; they had then been organized two years. Having presided as Chairman of that meeting, I am a disinterested witness of the calm and sober conversations which the members had, upon a question affecting the spiritual interest of souls brought within the range and care of the Wesleyan Ministry, and of the almost unanimous judgment then recorded, and forwarded to the Committee and Conference for their concurrence, that the work of God would be best promoted by the Circuits remaining divided. Such is the present legal character of the work in Montreal. If the document forwarded to my address had emanated from any Court known in the Wesleyan Church, however much I respect the brethren whose names are appended to the same, still I possess no authority in the present state of things, to interfere for the accomplishment of the object it aims to secure. Praying that the Great Head of the Church may endow you with eminent grace to discharge the proper duties he has assigned to each of you in his vineyard,

I remain, dear brethren,

Faithfully, your servant in Christ,

ENOCH WOOD.

Messrs. MATHEWS, and Others,
Montreal.

On the 7th of August, the Leaders of Griffintown met, and the above letter of Mr. Wood was read by the gentleman who had received it, Mr. H. Mathewson. In the mean-

time, it is proper to remark, that great discontent prevailed, and it seemed impossible to allay the fears that existed, that there would be an entire dissolution of our Societies. I entreated, and wept, and prayed that God would interpose and save us, and feeling in my conscience that wrong had been done, I could not but beg Mr. Wood to reconsider the case, or advise me what I should do—I therefore forwarded to him the following letter.

[COPY.]

MONTREAL, *August 8th, 1854.*

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

After considerable delay, occasioned chiefly by the sanitary condition of the city and the consequent numerous and painful duties I have had to perform, it becomes necessary that I shquld report to you the state of things here, Methodistically considered.

You will have learned, from a memorial sent to you, that the most of the official brethren in Montreal are as much opposed to the division of the Circuit as they were at the District Meeting, but it is not likely that you can have the means of knowing the deplorable and disastrous consequences which are sure to follow if that measure be pressed. The leaders are keeping together and are endeavouring to keep together their members, but they are gradually falling away through discontent and dissatisfaction—the congregations are diminishing. As pew holders decline renewing their sittings under the proposed change, there appears a dreary prospect of disorganization and destruction, which will affect injuriously not only the extremities of our city work but the centre also. Looking back only for a moment to the happy, united, harmonious and prosperous condition of our church here at the last March Quarterly meeting, I never witnessed a change so dismal, distressing and disheartening—and during the twenty years of my ministerial life never e-.perienced any thing over which I could weep with more bitter and poignant regret, “my heart is smitten and withered like grass.”

It has been impossible to effect any organization of a Circuit, at either end of the city, and therefore there has been no quarterly meeting. Mr. Bishop and myself have each tried to elect and appoint our steward, but in vain. The chapel trustee stewards have resigned, and therefore I have had to act for the trustees and re-let what pews I could in this department of the city, and take the oversight of the church externally and internally. But this state of things cannot continue long—worse and worse is before us, unless something conciliatory be speedily proposed and adopted.

It is my duty to inform you that the answer sent to the memorial forwarded you has not given satisfaction. The leaders of Griffintown met last evening, as usual after the Prayer Meeting, and passed unanimously the following resolutions.

Resolved,—1st. That the members of this meeting are deeply grieved

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that the answer to the memorial, which was forwarded to the President, should be so entirely unsatisfactory and calculated to increase rather than diminish their difficulties; and being persuaded that the facts included in that memorial are correct, they are determined to stand by them and seek redress against the grievous wrong under which they at present suffer.

Resolved,—2nd. That this meeting requests the Rev. Mr. Scott to correspond with the president of the Conference on our affairs, and if possible to open our way to a court of appeal immediately.

Under these circumstances of trial what can be done? Most sincerely and respectfully I solicit your advice and direction *at your earliest possible convenience*. The instructions you may give to me at this crisis will be considered as given to brother Bishop also, as he is placed in precisely the same circumstances of embarrassment and distress.

With earnest wishes for the peace and prosperity of our Zion,

I am,

Your Obedient Servant in Christ Jesus our Lord,

(Signed,) WILLIAM SCOTT.

Rev. E. Woon,

President of the Conference, Toronto.

To this letter I received no answer whatever, a circumstance not at all likely to allay the feeling of dissatisfaction existing in our societies. About this time, (the last of August,) or beginning of September, the preachers of the Lower Canada District received circulars to the effect that as the union had been ratified by the British Conference, the late District was divided into three, and that the Rev. John Carroll was appointed Chairman of the Montreal District, he being stationed at St. Johns. Some hope was entertained that this measure, although very doubtful as to its legal character, might nevertheless, in so far as Montreal was concerned, subserve a temporary good, by bringing the disputes and difficulties into a narrower compass, and dealing with them in a District capacity, or in some way opening up a passage to freedom, and light, and peace, and union. On the first of September, 1854, the Leaders' of Griffintown met officially for ordinary business, as a Leaders' Meeting, and I took the opportunity of expressing a hope that the brethren would work together until the Conference, when they might again be heard as to their views and wishes. They declined to institute any Circuit relations, and reviewed the whole subject, entering on their own records what their views were, and resolved to meet with their other brethren, from whom

they had been forcibly separated at the next regular Quarterly Meeting. This, however, was unavailing, as Mr. Jeffers had received instructions from Mr. Wood to resist all overtures of conciliation. At this time, therefore, recourse is had to the Rev. J. Carroll, who was Chairman designate of the Montreal District. On the 13th of October, he met the official brethren in Montreal, and very affectionately exhorted them to unity, and to work the Circuit independently until the Conference. This they positively declined doing. They regarded the unanimous vote of the official members of the city as set aside without any authority, and contrary to all precedent. Mr. Carroll recommended an appeal to the Special Committee of the Canada Conference, and an appeal was then agreed to. That Committee was to meet in Kingston on the 18th of October. About the same time I addressed a letter to the Co-delegate of the Canada Conference, stating how matters stood, and the danger there was of entire disruption. Mr. Wood telegraphed for me to go to Kingston at the time referred to. A deputation of respected laymen also went from Montreal. The appeal was read, but instead of examining the matter, as was expected and promised, a deputation was appointed to visit Montreal, consisting of Dr. Green and Bro. R. Jones. They declined investigating the matter on the merits of the case, and as beyond their jurisdiction, would give no opinion, nor even seek for evidence as to the propriety or legality of the division of Montreal into three Circuits. They recommended that the work be continued in three departments for the remainder of the Conference year, and without the least possible conciliation, left matters worse than they found them. The consequence was, that in the ensuing week the Leaders East and West resigned; and the preachers were left nearly alone. What we felt and experienced at that time can hardly be conjectured, especially when we reflected on the unity, happiness, and prosperity, which were thus struck down to the earth by a confirmation of what no one in Montreal had originally solicited, and of which no justification could be offered. I wrote to Mr. Carroll, hoping yet that something might be done to prevent a dissolution of the classes.

An union of the Suburban churches, under one superintendency, was proposed as a plan of pacification. The Chairman, Mr. Carroll, preliminarily agreed to it as a proposition, and in a few days came into Montreal for the purpose of endeavoring to effect a reconciliation. A meeting was called of the official members, upon whose resignation no action was as yet taken. As will be seen, several ministers were present, and concurred in the plan of pacification. Annexed is the authentic copy of the proceedings of that meeting held on the 8th day of November, 1854.

[COPY.]

A prudential meeting of brethren connected with the Wesleyan churches, at the East and West portions of the city of Montreal, was held on Wednesday evening, November 8, 1854. Present: Rev. J. Carroll Chairman, and Rev. J. Brock, Rev. J. Douglas, Rev. Wm. Scott, and Rev. J. H. Bishop; Brethren H. Mathewson, G. A. Sargison, J. Bowes, E. C. Longley, J. McMillan, D. Hadley, G. Rogers, and Bro. Stephens.

Prayer by Bros. Brock and Carroll.

Bro. Scott stated to the Chairman that the decisions of the executive Committee were found impracticable and unsatisfactory, in consequence of which the greater part of the official brethren connected with the Suburban churches, had resigned their official connection with the church. No action had yet been taken on these resignations, and he yet hoped that some measure might be proposed that would save the societies from dissolution and enable the ministers to carry forward the cause of God. * * * Considerable discussion was had in relation to the present state of things, and Mr. Scott said that after conversation with several of the brethren, he was of opinion that if a practical and financial union of the Suburban churches were proposed and concurred in, it would be calculated to serve the cause of Methodism and promote the work of God.

Mr. Scott therefore begged to propose that measure as a plan of pacification. The Chairman said that under the circumstances he felt free to entertain it, but that it was not to be considered as setting aside the other decisions of the executive Committee that were practicable. He then asked each brother present if he would concur, and all except one answered in the affirmative.

The Rev. John Carroll, after a full and free conversation, then said, "As Chairman of the Montreal District, I give my concurrence to the above plan of arranging the work for the remainder of the present Conference year, and therefore constitute the Suburban churches and work connected therewith, one Circuit for all practical and financial purposes."

Bro. Bishop and the Chairman concluded with prayer.

Meting adjourned. (Signed) JOHN CARROLL,
Montreal, Nov. 8, 1854. Chairman Montreal District.

I may take occasion to say here that the Rev. John Carroll is one of the most devoted and successful of Ministers connected with the Canada Conference. He has been in the Ministry for 27 years past, and has occupied the most important stations. He has been Chairman of a District for about 15 years, and therefore may be supposed to possess the confidence of the Conference and his brethren. When he was unexpectedly brought into an official relation with Montreal he endeavored carefully to do only that which was right and likely to promote peace and prosperity. In so far as one man can judge of another, I, and other ministerial brethren connected with the Eastern Canada District, felt and believed that in the project of union, Mr. Carroll was acting wisely and judiciously. Under these feelings and convictions we met together at the time above specified, and for the purpose mentioned.

This project was received as a healing measure, although of a temporary character, and as preachers we were able to secure the co-operation of most of our official friends connected with the suburban churches. There had been a deficiency in the income as compared with the claims, and an effort was made to raise an amount then needed. It was successful. Harmony and peace were restored, and although all was not conceded that was by the complaining parties deemed right, yet for peace sake, and having no radical reforming notions to gratify, they acquiesced, and continued to work for the good of the church. The understanding that matters were settled until the Conference pacified our societies, and there was every prospect of a season of unity and religious prosperity. The Rev. Mr. Carroll reported his proceedings to the Rev. E. Wood, who called together that part of the special committee residing near Toronto, and laid before them the recent state of affairs in Montreal. Mr. Carroll's temporary union of the suburban churches was condemned, but in writing to Mr. Carroll Mr. Wood said, "beyond the disavowal there is no design to interfere," and therefore it was still hoped that the churches would have rest. This hope was cut off by the Trustees declining to recognize Mr. Carroll's act as lawful, and requiring that

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each preacher should be considered the superintendent of his particular chapel at Trustees meetings—the same Trustees being in office for all the churches in Montreal. The Trustees memorialized Mr. Wood against the union of the suburban churches, and he decided that it was not lawful, and deputed the co-delegate, the Rev. John Ryerson, to come to Montreal and disperse the bond which had been made by our Chairman. He came—met the preachers—and the Chairman, Mr. Carroll, protested against the interference projected, but Mr. Ryerson dissolved the union and returned to Toronto. The parties who desired this, and who effected it, seemed altogether reckless of consequences, for after all that our Societies here had passed through, it was not likely that this final measure could be adopted without disastrous results. When the decisive result was communicated to the official brethren at the East end, they resigned with one exception, and most of the members of the classes withdrew from our Society, probably 50 only remaining, out of 160.* At the West end, one Leader having charge of two classes resigned, and most of the members seceded with him; to one of the classes a new leader was appointed, and most of that class remained with us. But at this West end, it is to be understood, that our official board exists only as a Leaders' Meeting, and can only be so reported to our next District Meeting and Conference. And, further, if the course of division be persevered in, and no conciliation or change be proposed, I have not the slightest reason to suppose that the Societies can be kept in fellowship with us beyond the time when such supposed decision against union shall be made known. Our connexion, therefore, in Montreal, stands at present in a most deplorable condition—and the prospects are most doleful. This communication is made to the President and Missionary Committee at home, because Mr. Wood, who is solely responsible for this state of things, avers that the division of Montreal into three Circuits has received the sanction of the Conference and Committee in England. We in this District have never had any other evidence of your taking action respecting the affairs of Montreal than is

* I find there are 65 remaining out of 248 returned last year. W. S.

involved in the fact of your printing our Stations as you find them on our minutes. As Montreal *appears* as three Circuits, so it may have been thought that they were *really* so, whereas the undoubted fact is, that as a temporary expedient, the measure was acquiesced in by the friends in Montreal, and was never designed to be permanent. To the measure as temporary, the assent of the official brethren in Montreal was asked, and no coercion or exercise of prerogative was contemplated. They were treated as parties to be consulted, according to the law published in their class-books. By a very small minority, the measure of division was desired, but they did not expect their views to carry against the wishes of more than four-fifths of the Quarterly Meeting. At the District Meeting of 1854, the fatal policy of prerogative was adopted, after three years of negotiations and decisions according to law. The Chairman, the Rev. Enoch Wood, decided against law and fact, that the Circuit was divided, and should remain three, leaving me more especially to carry out an impracticable project, and to execute impossible decrees. We are not yet so far separated from the Home Conference as that you can have nothing to do with the affairs of this District. Having been connected a good part of twenty years with the Missionary Committee, and having for many years been placed in very onerous and responsible stations, I feel that you will not refuse to listen to the appeal of a Missionary, who writes not for his own sake, or for his own comfort, but for the sake of hundreds of precious souls in Montreal, who, if no pacificatory measures are adopted, will be lost to our connexion, and I fear for many of them lost for ever. I do without the least hesitation, assure you, that the aggrieved and seceding brethren have no desire for organic changes—have no sympathy with reformers, so called, and have no wish for anything but simple justice and a faithful fulfilment of engagements made between themselves and the District Meeting. If, in this communication, I appear rather as an advocate of the aggrieved, than as a recorder of facts, it is because I think the facts justify an impeachment of the administration of the Rev. Enoch Wood, in his capacity of Chairman of this Dis-

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trict. Against the ruinous policy pursued by Mr. Wood, and against the division of Montreal into three Circuits, contrary to the recorded decision of the Montreal Quarterly Meeting, I appeal to the President of the Wesleyan Conference and Missionary Committee in England. Most respectfully, but most earnestly, do I beg your prompt attention to this lengthy communication. Our District Meeting will most likely assemble in the third week in May, and the Canada Conference the first Wednesday in June.

Thus far you have my letter to the Rev. Mr. Farrar, but in addition to the foregoing, there are a few other documents which it was not necessary to send to England, but I think it right to copy the same for your use, and the use of the Conference, if need be. Upon some of them I shall take the liberty of making a few remarks, writing freely to you as I would to all the brethren in the Ministry, upon topics which as much affect the rights of preachers as they do those of the people. The first document to which I call your attention, is the memorial sent to Mr. Wood, from the Leaders' Meeting of Griffintown, dated 5th of July, 1854. It was as follows:—

[COPY.]

To the Rev. E. Wood, President of the Canada Conference.

DEAR SIR,

The Methodist Societies of Montreal have been very unexpectedly thrown into a state of excitement and dissatisfaction, which, so far as we know, is without any precedent in this city. There have been occasions of strife and fear for the interests of the church, but never did we consider our societies in so great jeopardy as at the present time. At the close of the last Wesleyan year, all our classes throughout the city were in a state of peace and prosperity; in many there was considerable increase; and little did any of us, in an official position, anticipate the present distress, and forebodings of evil. We take the liberty of addressing you upon the subject, in the hope that you may be induced to change your decision respecting the division of the Montreal Circuit, since this is the cause of our existing agitations.

No permanent division of the Montreal Circuit was ever contemplated by our Quarterly Meeting, but in May, 1851, the District Meeting asked the Leaders board of Griffintown and Quebec Suburbs to work the Circuits separately, so as to suit the appointments of the coming year. Consent

was reluctantly given to this as a temporary arrangement, and was continued a second year with the explicit and written understanding, by both the Griffintown and Quebec Suburbs board of Leaders, and the District, that at the end thereof the Circuit might revert to its original position as one Circuit, not by permission, but of right—inasmuch as all the Leaders of the city were justly entitled to recognition as members of the Montreal Quarterly Meeting. An effort was made at the District Meeting of 1853, to persuade the brethren in each department to remain separate as three Circuits, but it was respectfully declined, and by a unanimous vote of the whole united official Members of Montreal, taken after full discussion of the affair in all its bearings, it was decided that Montreal do constitute one united Circuit; and that meeting was considered the July Quarterly Meeting of 1853. Nothing occurred to disturb this decision, and the work of God has prospered. The Societies have increased, and the finances have been more than equal to the expectations of many.

During the District Meeting just over, the decision of the Chairman was made known, that the city should be divided permanently into three Circuits. Against this the Griffintown Leaders and those of the Quebec Suburbs, sent in a respectful protest, but you had left the city, and an answer was sent them that the subject would be laid before you by the deputation to the Canada Conference from this District. On the return of that deputation no answer whatever was given to us, and it is not even known whether you have received the protests that were forwarded through the deputation. We have reason to think that it is your intention to abide by your decision. But we respectfully represent that such a course will be at variance with the written and deliberate assurance of the District Meeting; it is in opposition to the united voice of the Quarterly Meeting, a year ago; it is at variance with the opinions of most of the Leaders connected with the Centre Church, and not at all desired by nine-tenths of our societies and congregations in any part of the city. The sudden and undesired division of the Circuit into three, at the present time, will be attended, we fear, with the most disastrous consequences. The Circuit is one: it is not in our power, were it our desire to make it otherwise; and we not only decline to assume the responsibilities of separation, but most respectfully and earnestly remonstrate against it.

In conclusion, we beg sincerely to state that we are influenced, as far as we can judge of our own hearts, by a sincere desire to preserve the interests of Methodism, and promote its prosperity in the city. We are thrown into circumstances of great affliction, and hope, Rev. Sir, that you may see the propriety of allowing us to proceed with the work of Methodism as it was before the sitting of the last District Meeting.

July 5, 1854.

Resolution passed at an official meeting of the leaders in connection with the Griffintown Church held on Monday evening, July, 10 1854:

Resolved,—That the document now read be officially adopted by this meeting; and that the other official brethren in the city, who concur in the views therein set forth, be requested to append their signatures.

(Signed) H. MATHEWSON,
Society Steward.

As far as any person here is able to judge, Mr. Wood took a much longer time to answer this memorial than was either necessary or prudent, considering the state of feeling which prevailed, and when that answer was received it was more calculated to irritate than to heal the wounds which had been inflicted. Mr. Wood says, "the division, &c., engaged the attention of the District Meeting," and so it did, but after all the false and special pleadings of Mr. Jenkins, that meeting went no farther than "recommending" a certain course. If that meeting had decided positively that Montreal should thenceforth be three Circuits, such action would have been unconstitutional, the meeting would have transcended its powers. But it did no such thing—the District Meeting respected the rights of the Quarterly Meeting, and would not venture on assuming unauthorized responsibilities. Mr. Wood says, this judgment of the District was "forwarded to the Committee and Conference for their concurrence." There is no evidence for this. The resolution of 1853 stands in our journal, not on our minutes—the journal is never "forwarded" home. And if it were so, and the "concurrence" of the home authorities were obtained, (of which there is no proof) then that "concurrence" could not go beyond the terms of the resolution, and would not be likely to over-ride the conditions on which the temporary division had been consented to. Let the correspondence be produced which authorizes Mr. Wood to throw the responsibility of his own imprudence upon our respected brethren at home. It cannot be shown, and yet Mr. Wood says, "such is the present real character of the work in Montreal." I ask where is the law? and where is the evidence that the law has been complied with?

Mr. Wood says, "If the document forwarded to me had emanated from any court known in the Wesleyan Church, &c." Mr. Wood knew that the document to which he was replying emanated from a "Leaders' Meeting," and if it had not, ought not the privileges of every British subject to be possessed by a Wesleyan. Her Majesty may be addressed by the meanest in her realm, and a respectful answer would be returned. And if the document had not emanated from a "court" known in Wesleyan law—who was it broke up

the lawful court—the united Quarterly Meeting, and made every meeting *since held, unlawful?* There has not been a lawful court of Wesleyan Methodism in Montreal since the last District Meeting, and yet the author of this disorder thus speaks to the brethren whom he denudes of the power to act lawfully; and then says that he possesses no “authority in the present state of things to interfere.”

Mr. Wood’s letter concludes, “Praying that the Great Head of the church may endow you with eminent grace to discharge the *proper duties* he has assigned to each of you,” “*The proper duties!*” I will not trust myself to remark on such significant phraseology, I leave it to the candour of any Christian man to say, whether it is judicious, or kind, or respectful!

A communication from myself to Mr. Wood followed soon after the reception of his answer. It will be found on page 25. I have stated, that to that letter I received no answer. Was that silence just or proper? Even if Mr. Wood had been informed that I attributed to him the causes and consequences of our condition as a church, that was rather a reason why he should have fully and freely expressed his judgment and given me the directions I so sincerely solicited. If I declined to execute his orders or carry out his interpretations of law it would have been my duty to ask for a change of appointment—that I should have done if in my judgment I could not conscientiously do as desired. But for the President, when a Circuit is on the verge of destruction, to maintain a solemn silence as to what should be done, is unprecedented.

In this place I transcribe a letter which I thought it my duty to write to the Rev. Dr. Green, who in your absence had been appointed Co-delegate. On that I shall make no remarks, nor shall I offer any apologies. It was designed to bring the matter to a crisis, and probably had that effect, but whether it had or not, I am not ashamed of it, and here it is:—

[COPY.]

MONTREAL, October 11, 1854.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

I am under the painful necessity of addressing you, as Co-delegate of the Canada Conference, in reference to the affairs of Methodism in Montreal. I stated to the President some time ago, that it was found impossible to organize the Circuits either East or West, and then solicited his advice and instructions. He has not given me any answer, and therefore I cannot tell what his views are. All the leaders may be considered as holding their offices until their successors are appointed, but as there are not suitable persons to take their places, the result is, and must be, a total disruption of the societies in Montreal. To continue in our present state until the Conference, is impossible—to attempt it, must be attended with ruin. The Leaders' Meeting of Griffintown desire to know by what authority they have been separated from their brethren forming the Montreal Circuit—I cannot inform them. They desire to know whether there is not a Court of Appeal in Methodism by which the questions involved can be reviewed—I cannot inform them. I assure you, my dear Sir, things are deplorable in their aspects and demand enquiry. As the President declines answering my questions, and declines proposing any plan of conciliation, I have no other course at present open, than to apply to you as the next in office and authority; I decline the responsibility of carrying out the measures of the President, believing them to be at variance with the laws and constitution of Methodism. I regard every Minister, from the highest in office to the lowest, as under obligation to obey and administer those laws fairly interpreted. If the division of the Montreal Circuit has been constitutionally done, I am prepared to submit; but, if not, I demand redress of the grievance, and reparation of the wrong done to those over whom I have been placed as a Methodist Preacher. These are the points in dispute, and I beg most respectfully to enquire whether any means can be devised for their investigation and settlement.

I have the honor to be,

Yours, very respectfully,

(Signed)

WILLIAM SCOTT.

REV. ANSON GREEN, D. D., Co-delegate of the
Canada Conference, Toronto.

The answer to that letter to Dr. Green was received by Telegraph from Mr. Wood. The Telegraphic communication was as follows:—

TORONTO, October 14, 1854.

Rev. Wm. Scott.

Shall want you at Conference Committee, Kingston, next Thursday, If West Circuit have any thing more to say, send it forward. Bring Books of Eastern District.

(Signed)

c3

ENOC WOOD.

The thing noticeable in this message is the phrase "West Circuit," as though that part of the city was alone dissatisfied with the arrangement forced upon it, whereas Mr. Wood might have known that the East was more decided than the West, and that the Centre was for the most part in sympathy with the extremities. There was more to say, however, and it was said, for at the time that I was requested to go to Kingston, the brethren acting under the advice of the Rev. J. Carroll, had resolved on appealing to the Conference Committee. That appeal was prepared—a lay deputation accompanied it—I took the district books as requested.—In due time the appeal was read *before the Committee*. It was as follows:—

[Copy.]

To the Chairman and Executive Committee of the Canada Conference.
This memorial respectfully sheweth,

That the undersigned persons are officially connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the city of Montreal, and have been constrained, by a clear conviction of duty, to appeal to the Executive Committee for its immediate interposition for the settlement of those difficulties at present existing in Montreal, which have seriously affected the peace and happiness of the Society, and threatens still more painful consequences. Most deeply do we deplore the present state of things, and moved by a solemn sense of responsibility to God, we are compelled to state our grievances and seek their removal. This final step towards a reversion of our condition is taken only after having failed in all attempts by other means. And after a deliberate decision formed on grounds of conscience and right by all the brethren East and West, that they could not retain their official connection with Methodism in Montreal in its present disjointed and unsatisfactory state, a feeling that creates alarm and meets with sympathy extensively in the Centre Church. The cause of distress and dissatisfaction is found in the fact that the Montreal Circuit has been divided into three Circuits without the consent and contrary to the expressed decision of the Quarterly Meeting. The discipline providing, that no Circuits shall be divided till such decision has been approved of by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and signed by the general stewards, and again that no division shall be made of any Circuit where it does not appear to the Quarterly Meeting, the District Meeting, the committee of representatives and the Conference, that there is such an enlargement of the work as requires it.

As it may be alleged that the Montreal Circuit was divided some years ago, and is only now continued in that divided state, we beg leave to

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lay before you a brief review of the principal facts in the history of this movement.

1st. That the motion for the division of Montreal into two or three Circuits originated in the District Meeting of 1851, and was then thought desirable by the District for the convenience and accommodation of the Ministers to be appointed, more particularly to meet the views of the Rev. J. Jenkins, who on the occasion of the late Rev. Mr. Squires' appointment to the city could not retain his position as superintendent, except by a division of the Circuit.

2nd. That in assenting to the division at that time, the express and written agreement was made that the arrangement should be only *temporary*, and at the District meeting of 1852, the division was prolonged for another year only on the same terms and conditions.

3rd. That at the District Meeting of 1853, the West Circuit would have been willing to continue separate for another year, if an unmarried Minister had been appointed, but failing that, the Circuit reverted without controversy to its position of union with the other parts of the city. An effort was made to effect a permanent division at that time, (1853,) but the official brethren, East and West, were unanimously resolved to fall back upon the agreement which had been concurred in by the Centre Circuit.

4th. That it was distinctly understood that the Ministers appointed to this city at the District of 1853, were to keep the work divided *if they could safely do so, but that if they saw it advisable they were to carry out the wishes of the majority by again constituting the city one Circuit.*

5th. That after several ineffectual efforts to induce the official boards to work separately, it was finally agreed that the interests of Methodism required the fulfilment of the terms originally agreed to, and the work in Montreal was accordingly declared one Circuit.

6th. That this union continued for the whole year between the District Meetings of 1853 and 1854, and was attended with the divine blessing, in the peace and prosperity of the church and the conversion of many sinners to God: notwithstanding the untoward circumstances in which the Circuits was placed by the secession of its superintendent during the year.

7th. That at the fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Montreal Circuit, held previously to the District Meeting of 1854, no one thought of proposing any change, nor had any intimation been given to the Quarterly Meeting, that it had transcended in any way its powers and privileges by the assumption of its united position.

8th. That the Rev. Wm. Scott was requested to lay before the District Meeting of 1854, the resolutions of the Quarterly Meeting, by which the union was consummated, in order that the Ministerial brethren might fully understand what had been done and that there was no desire for any change in the Circuit arrangements.

9th. That there is no reason to believe that the District of 1854 was

Invited to consider whether the Montreal Circuit had done right or wrong in its proceedings of the past year, or whether it would be proper to divide the Circuit again, but that the Chairman, reverting to the opinion of the District of 1853, did on his own responsibility decide that Montreal should thenceforth be three Circuits.

10th. That against this decision the leaders of Griffintown and Quebec Suburbs sent into the District Meeting a firm and respectful protest, to whch, in the absence of the Chairman, no other answer was given than that the subject should be brought before Rev. Mr. Wood, by the District deputation to the Canada Conference.

11th. That not receiving any reply through the deputation, a memorial was sent to the Rev. Mr Wood, embodying the principal facts in the case and asking redress.

12th. That the answer given by Mr. Wood leads to the conclusion that he falls back upon the decision of the District Meeting of 1853, but as that decision was only *recommendatory*, the *legal* character of the work in Montreal could not be affected thereby, and therefore that the work in Montreal, at the District Meeting of 1854 was embraced in one Circuit and was so reported at that time.

13th. That in view of all the facts, and in consideration of the constitutional rights of a Quarterly Meeting, and the written agreements and resolutions of all the parties concerned, it is beyond question that the present legal character of the work in Montreal requires that it be considered as one Circuit, and only one.

The foregoing facts and statements are justified by the records of the Quarterly Meetings, and by the records of the District Meetings, in which the subject has been considered. Upon a foundation so broad and constitutional we might exclusively rest our appeal, but the separation of Montreal into three Circuits is in our opinion totally unnecessary, and by no means calculated to promote the advancement of the cause of God; it is practically impossible, for if three from the nature and position of the work, co-operation and interchange are required in every department of Christian labor. On these topics evidence can be given by the deputation we have sent to represent our views, and by many of the Ministers who may be present when this subject is considered. We therefore, conclude this our memorial, and appeal by earnestly and respectfully remonstrating against the division of the Montreal Circuit.

Signed by 26, or more, official members.

Really, the affair was not very complex, but it had gone over such a space of time, and had apparently changed its aspects so often, that to some minds it might have looked formidable. There was one easy way of getting over the affair, and that was to shift the question and throw the responsibility on another. This was attempted by Mr. Borland,

who, without the shadow of proof, charged me with this, that, and the other, in the most abusive manner, and was permitted by the Chairman to go on in this shameful way as long as he pleased. It served as a diversion for a while, but the appeal was there and must be dealt with. I considered that Committee able to deal with it, and was given to understand that it was legally competent to do so. It was to me doubtful, for its powers and prerogatives are not any where defined, as far as I can learn, and to say the least, such committees may be dangerously subversive of constitutional government. Their action may be righted by a subsequent Conference, but that does not change their character for the time being. The committee in this case did not act, but deputed two of its number to proceed to Montreal to examine into the matter, and decide about it on the spot.

I have incorporated above, a copy of the appeal as it was read. This was the document with which the deputation had to do. They came to Montreal, the deputation added three or four others to their number, and proceeded to work. They met the several boards of leaders separately, they conversed privately with persons interested one way or another, and they received assurances from four-fifths of all concerned that the division of Montreal into three Circuits was neither necessary nor desirable, and would not be acceptable. At the final meeting of the united boards, an attempt was made to obtain the assent of the brethren beforehand, to whatever decision might be given, and with many this snare was successful. This Sub-Committee was in no sense a board of arbitration, and it was wrong to assume that it was such, or had a right to ask beforehand the assent of differing parties. After much talk the meeting adjourned and the deputation met and prepared their decision next morning. That decision was as follows:—

[Copy.]

At a meeting of the deputation of the special Committee of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, held in the vestry of the Wesleyan Church Great St. James Street Montreal, October 24th and 25th.

Present: The Rev. Messrs Jones, John Temkis, Henry Lanton, Chas.

DeWolfe, and John Carroll, with the Rev. Dr. Green in the Chair, after a patient and thorough hearing of the statements of the Trustees and official members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the city of Montreal, it was unanimously resolved:—*First.* That the deputation do not consider it their duty to re-consider the action of the last Lower Canada District Meeting, held in May, 1854, in regard to the adjustment of the Circuit matters of this city, as being beyond their jurisdiction.

Secondly:—That the deputation on a prayerful review of the state of the whole work in this city, do regard the present arrangement of the city under three departments as most likely at this time, to promote the interests of our beloved Methodism.

(1) Because we believe the brethren will act more harmoniously in distinct and separate boards.

(2) Because this arrangement prayerfully and lovingly carried out will in our judgment, be more productive of spiritual results, by suitably calling forth the energies of the members in the extension of the work.

Thirdly:—That the deputation on a review of the financial prospects of the various parts of the work in the city, deem it desirable, that in case any deficiency should arise in either of the extremes that the Centre should affectionately afford any pecuniary assistance that may be required, or that such assistance should be rendered from proper connexional funds.

Fourthly: That the deputation regard it as necessary to the efficient working of Methodism in Montreal, that the preachers shall regularly exchange pulpits on the Sabbath days, as in former times, when there was but one Circuit; and that we do earnestly recommend any families now worshipping in the Centre, who live contiguous to the Suburban churches, to take pews therein, and that arrangements be made by the Ministers to supply leaders for the classes from any part of the work as they may be needed.

Fifthly: That we do affectionately urge the Ministers, Leaders, and Stewards, to pay due attention to, and harmoniously co-operate in raising the funds required to sustain the work in the three Circuits and to carry out in every respect the foregoing resolutions in their true intent and meaning, with a constant dependence on the divine blessing.

Sixthly: That nothing in the above arrangement shall be understood as depriving the May District Meeting,—when the stewards from the several Circuits are present, making any arrangement of the work in the city for the ensuing year, which they may in their united wisdom judge necessary for its efficiency and extension; in conformity with the constitution of the church.

(Signed)

A. GREEN, Chairman.
RICHARD JONES,
JOHN TOMKINS,
CHARLES DEWOLFE,
HENRY LANTON,
JOHN CARROLL.

The above document has some very singular features about it—it introduces “statements of trustees” as separate from “official members,” whereas, in British Methodism the Trustees exercise their powers co-ordinately with the Quarterly Meeting ; and in Canadian Methodism, they have no defined powers whatever in the book of discipline, as to Circuit arrangements. In the first Resolution, “the action of the East or Lower Canada District Meeting is referred to, whereas that meeting took no action whatever, and therefore a something imaginary is “beyond their jurisdiction,” and yet *that* is the foundation of all their proceedings. The second resolution leaves matters just as they were, as might have been expected from the tenor of the first ;—here are two reasons—one is, that the brethren will act more harmoniously in distinct and separate boards. I believe there was never much to find fault with in the matter of harmony in former years ; but to produce harmony by division and separation is a little remarkable—the second point, refers to “spiritual results” anticipated, for which there was no ground for any thing said by those who knew best. The third resolution recommends the friends in the Centre to assist in sustaining the work of the other churches. That part of the fourth, which recommends something like proselytism, is simply absurd. The fifth, need not have been written, for every one is expected in Methodism to do his duty,—and the sixth conveys no new powers to the District Meeting, and therefore is irrelevant. Perhaps on some of those points I may have an opportunity of expressing my opinion *viva voce* ; but in this form I can now only say that the business of this special deputation was done and reported in such a way as to be far from creditable either in a literary or Methodistic point of view. If the Conference Special Committee bungles its business in this way usually it were better that its powers should be dissolved, and Circuit affairs be left to Circuit or District management. The effect of their operations in so far as concerns Montreal, is narrated in the letter to Mr. Farrar, and to that I refer you. It would have been an ex-

traordinary instance of magnanimity and christian forbearance had the aggrieved official brethren in Montreal accepted such a decision. As it was a temporary, and not a permanent arrangement, I should have been glad could they have been brought to consent; but when they positively declined doing so, he must have been totally ignorant of Wesleyan law, who would utter a word of condemnation. They accepted office as members of some Quarterly Meeting, and when that union was dissolved without their consent and in opposition to their will, they were virtually separated from the church and deprived of office. It was at any rate for them to say whether they would continue in office under new forms of administration. It was desirable to save these brethren to Methodism and to the Church—they had done no wrong—in my opinion, a wrong was done to them. I think this has been, and can be clearly shown under the circumstances. I was justified in invoking the aid of the Chairman of the Montreal District, if possible to propose some appointment that might be the means of pacification and quiet until the Conference. He did interpose and is prepared to justify his conduct. It was honorable to his piety and prudence that he exhibited a willingness to save and not to scatter the sheep of Christ's fold. What he proposed or accepted when proposed, was agreeable to the aggrieved brethren, and they retained their classes. As detailed elsewhere, Mr. Carroll honestly communicated his doings to the President of the Conference. He knows best how he felt when he found that his favorite scheme of dividing Montreal was impracticable and destructive, but it seems he could not allow the proceedings of Mr. Carroll to go uncondemned, as that would involve a condemnation of himself. A part of the Conference Committee was called together—was that constitutional? an absent member and chairman was condemned unheard—was that constitutional? and men who knew nothing about the matter, presumed to judge of a state of things and the conduct to be pursued on mere exparte testimony—was that constitutional? Verily, when once the laws

of Methodism are violated, and a course of wrong persisted in, there is no knowing where it may end.

Mr. Carroll had united the Suburban churches into one Circuit rather than they should be totally disorganized. I believed his act a lawful one, and therefore regarded myself according to instructions, the Superintendent. The Trustees declined recognizing that union as lawful and took some action against it ; you were deputed to proceed to Montreal and enforce the division ; you came here and met all the parties, and undid what Mr. Carroll had done, on the ground that it was "extrajudicial." The effect has been a secession of more than 100 members from the East church, and some 25 from the West church. In the West, the greater part remain in the hope that the next Conference will fully investigate the affairs of Montreal and place the societies in their true and lawful position as an undivided Circuit. My hopes are strong to that end, *for it is the only method which can be adopted to restore tranquility to the church and preserve it from further disorganization.* I trust a review of the case will lead you and the Conference to the same conclusion. Any argument for division based upon supposed advantages is to be considered as irrelevant. These advantages at best are problematical, but in reference to the state of Montreal they are not legally admissible. The question is simply, has the Montreal Circuit been lawfully divided ?

Many other points may be and are involved in the case, but they do not necessarily make a part of it. They may be subsequently considered, but they cannot primarily be mixed up with it.

I have thus somewhat fully laid the matter before you as Co-delegate, because the acts of the President as administrator of the laws of Methodism are properly the subject of investigation at the Conference. The President, I apprehend is amenable to the Conference. If because of his appointment by the British Conference he is only responsible to that body then it is the duty of the Conference to lay any matter even of doubt before that body. If because these affairs of Mon-

treal were transacted before the ratification of the Union, the Canada Conference should decline to deal with them, then there is a possibility of the perpetration and perpetuation of a cruel and unprecedented wrong.

I pray God himself and our Father to interpose, and save the Methodism of this city from disgrace and the societies from disorganization and ruin.

Yours, very truly and affectionately,

WM. SCOTT.

Rev. J. RYERSON.

P O S T S C R I P T.

I am given to understand that these Montreal affairs are not to be judged of in the light of the law, or that the law of Methodism was not applicable to Missionary Districts; these being governed by the Missionary Secretaries. This method of arguing only complicates the matter still more. All our leaders in Montreal had the law printed in their class books, and all ecclesiastical business was supposed to be done according to the law, in each case. The Secretaries may decide matters affecting Feegee and other heathen stations, but it was never understood that Montreal should be considered in so infantile a state. However had the case ever been referred to them, and had any special instructions come from them authorizing the division of the Montreal Circuit, the case would have been different, but it is yet to be shown that the Secretaries, in any way authorized the course which has caused so much distress in Montreal. If the law is to be practically annulled and the question now settled independently of the past, it is possible that some degree of satisfaction may be given to those who consider themselves aggrieved. I confess myself pained and distressed beyond expression, at the mode of justification now

instituted, and nothing can ever obliterate from my mind the sense of injustice which I consider to be thereby inflicted either upon the respected Missionary Secretaries, or upon our beloved societies in Montreal. My conscience is clear in the matter. I cannot consent to be a party to wrong of so grave a character. What I have written and herein printed is my opinion of the matter. I commit myself as I think, only to the cause of constitutional Methodism. Methodism without a constitution or a government of prerogative is a system with which I cannot accord, and if our union with the Canada Conference, free us from irresponsible government, I am heartily thankful for it, and henceforth devote myself to the work of the ministry, with some hope that even Montreal may profit by the change of administration.

One word more.—I have been repeatedly cautioned within a few days past, not to imagine that I can escape punishment for temerity in opposing the Presidents will, I am to be thrust into some obscure corner, I might have been elected to an important post of honor and responsibility if I had acquiesced, that my independence in former times is not forgotten,—and various other suggestions, that might alarm some weak minded person; but I thank God, that having committed my cause to him, I can trust him, and aspire only to do good according to the ability he giveth, and that in the church of my choice and affections, the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

W. S.

