## METHODISM.

**Methodist Episcopal Church and Church South.**

**Correspondence Between the Bishops.**

**REUNION OF THE CHURCHES PROPOSED.**

**CHURCH SOUTH RESPECTFULLY DECLINES THE TERMS.**

**An Interesting Correspondence.**

The New York *Christian Advocate* of this week publishes the following interesting and important correspondence concerning the reunion of the Methodist Churches:

ST. LOUIS, MAY 7, 1869.—*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:* REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN: We have been deputed to convey to you a communication from the Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Erie, Pa., in June, 1865, we made and published the following declaration:

That the great cause which led to the separation from us of the Church South, and the division of this country and of the Methodist Episcopal Church South has passed away, and we trust that the day is not far distant when there shall be but one organization to embrace the whole Methodist family of the United States.

This declaration was made in good faith, and shown that we then and now entertained such feelings, and was deemed by us as the utmost we were authorized to say or do, at the time, and at that time.

Although the late General Conference did not directly authorize us to take further specific action in the premises, we trust that none of its acts justify advanced steps on our part.

In our quadrennial address to the General Conference we referred to the declaration above quoted, and no exception was taken to it by that body.

The General Conference, to promote the union of Methodism, appointed a delegated commission, consisting of eight members of that body and the Bishops of the Church, who were *empowered* to treat with a similar commission from any other Methodist Church having like views and feelings.

We have understood that there were in the minds of many of the members and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church South reasons why they could not, at present, take steps to initiate measures to effect a reunion of the two Churches.

Believing as we do that if they were one in both spirit and organization the object could be accomplished for the interests of humanity and for the glory of God, we are impressed with doing all we constitutedly can to promote a re-union on terms honorable to the mother Churches, and in the spirit of our Divine Lord.

We therefore ask your attention to the commission above referred to, and we crave to you the opinion that should your appointees be suit to our next General Conference to appoint a like commission, they will be promptly met by our commission, who, we doubt not, will be happy to treat with them, and to report the result to our next General Conference.

Praying that Infinite Wisdom may guide both you and us in this important matter, we are, yours affectionately,

E. S. JANES,
H. N. MCTYEIRE,
*Secs. Bishops' Meeting.*

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 8, 1869.

*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:* REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN: Your secretaries, Bishops Janes and Simpson, have just been presented to the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as the bearers of a communication from the Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Erie, Pa., in June, 1865, which was read and published the following declaration:

That the great cause which led to the separation from us of the Church South, and the division of this country and of the Methodist Episcopal Church South has passed away, and we trust that the day is not far distant when there shall be but one organization to embrace the whole Methodist family of the United States.

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ST. LOUIS, MO., May 8, 1869.

In behalf of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:

DEAR BROTHERS: It seems to us that as the Church South is now in every part of our country which are of like faith and order as has been inaugurated for evil, so the reunion of them would be productive of good.

As the main cause of the separation has been removed, so has the effect ceased to be operative.

It is fitting that the Methodist Church, which began the disunion, should not be the last to achieve the remedial work of bringing it regroach to the chief pastors of the separated bodies if they waited until they were first prompted them to the union which both the love of country and of religion now inspire, which the providence of God seems to render inevitable and to declare.

We are aware that there are difficulties in the way, growing out of the past, and especially the past and the impers of the present.

We have, therefore, deputed our colleagues, Morris and Janes, to counsel with you as to the propriety, practicability and methods of reunion, hoping that they may be able to bring to their high offices by the Church before its severance, and endeared to the hearts of their apostolic fathers, may live to see the severed parts united upon a Scriptural, constitutional, stable as truth, and harmonious with the fundamental law of our holy faith.

In behalf of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

T. A. MORRIS, President.

P. S.—Bishop Morris having stated that it was doubtful whether he would be able to fulfill the duties of the commission, it was resolved that Bishop Simpson be added to the delegation above described.

T. A. MORRIS.

The following letter from Bishop Morris to Bishop Janes was also presented by the latter, and read to the Bishops of the Church South:

*Springerville, Ohio, May 10, 1869.—Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D. D.:* DEAR BROTHER: If I remember rightly when the Council adjourned you expect to visit St. Louis on important business of the Church. If so, I would it are complimentary to myself that I was appointed to accompany you on that business, and the interesting mission, and regret that it is not convenient for me to exercise the confidence in my person, but trust that my alternate will more than supply my lack of service.

For three weeks past our family have all had enough to fill our hands and hearts, and have been overflowing; one result is, the health of Mrs. Morris is more feeble and precarious than usual. This is the chief cause of my failure to appear.

Please accept this explanation and excuse my absence.

The official letter of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church to the Reverend Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) not only bears my official signature, but it has my personal approval, and fully accords with the action of our last General Conference. I should be glad to see it more opportune, and trust that beneficial results may follow.

If you have any opportunity to address the Reverend Bishops present with you on the occasion, please present them collectively with my fraternal greetings.

Praying that the Lord may direct them and us in all things to His glory and the general good of all concerned, I am, dear brother, respectfully and fraternally yours ever.

E. S. JANES.

*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, covered in St. Louis, Mo.—*REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN: At a meeting of the Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Erie, Pa., in June, 1865, we made and published the following declaration:

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