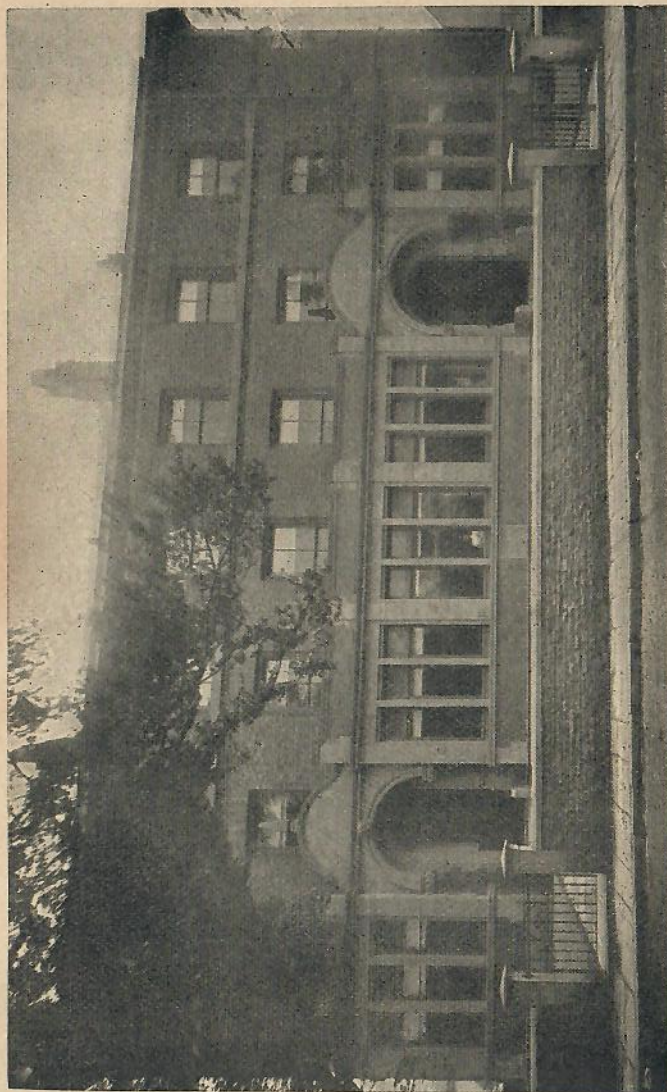


FREE METHODIST MANUAL.



FREE METHODIST COLLEGE, MANCHESTER—FRONT ELEVATION.

FREE METHODIST MANUAL

COMPRISING A STATEMENT OF THE

ORIGIN, DOCTRINES, AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE

United Methodist Free Churches;

WITH

ALPHABETICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF MINISTERS AND
CIRCUITS,

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF
CONNEXIONAL INSTITUTIONS, FUNDS, &c.,

FROM 1836 TO 1898.

REV. EDWIN ASKEW, EDITOR.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER BY

REV. R. ABERCROMBIE, M.A.

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PREFACE.

In introducing this Manual to our readers we lay no claim to originality. Compendiums, Digests, Constitutions, or Consolidations of Minutes, have long existed in all the older Methodist bodies. In process of time such books become a necessity ; partly for the sake of combining and harmonising regulations made at different times, and for various purposes ; and also, and chiefly, to keep them in memory and prevent them from becoming a dead letter.

Forty-one years have passed away since the formation of the United Methodist Free Churches, and the Jubilee of the Amalgamation is within measurable distance ; it is, therefore, by no means premature at this stage of our Connexional history to issue an official* and authoritative account of our Laws and Institutions. This was the feeling of the Annual Assembly ; hence the following resolutions adopted in 1896, and slightly modified in 1897.

Resolved—1. That in future the printed Minutes consist of the statistics and decisions of the Annual Assembly for the current year.

2. That once in about five years we publish a volume of Consolidated Minutes, which shall contain a digest of previous

* The Free Methodist Handbook, published in 1877, and re-published in 1887, though having the supervision of Connexional officials and the benediction of the Annual Assembly, was published on the sole responsibility of its authors ; and was, therefore, without official or Connexional authority.

Assemblies relative to Connexional Institutions and Regulations, and such other matter as may be decided upon.

3. That a Committee of seven persons be appointed to prepare the volume of Consolidated Minutes, the Committee to consist of the Connexional Secretary (Rev. E. D. Cornish); Corresponding Secretary (Rev. J. C. Brewitt); General Missionary Secretary (Rev. H. T. Chapman); Chapel Secretary (Rev. E. Boaden); Book Steward (Rev. A. Crombie); and the Revs. R. Abercrombie, M.A., and E. Askew. The Committee to appoint one of its own members to act as Editorial Secretary. The Book Steward to be the Convener of the first meeting.

4. That the question of an honorarium to the Editorial Secretary be considered and decided by the above Committee and the Connexional Committee, when the volume is completed.

5. That the Revs. E. Askew and W. Boyden, in harmony with their own offer, be paid the sum of £5 in full discharge of their interest in that portion of the Handbook that would be of service in preparing the Consolidated Minutes.

6. That all expenses incurred in preparing the Consolidated Minutes be paid out of the Incidental Expenses Fund, and, that the MS. be then handed to the Book Room for publication.

At the first meeting of the Committee the Rev. E. Askew was appointed Editorial Secretary, and the Rev. R. Abercrombie, M.A., was requested to write the introductory chapter.

The task of the Committee is now complete. The lines of the Handbook have in the main been followed; though several new features of interest have been added. To these belong the summary of the New Marriage Law, and the account given of the Associated Institutions—viz., The Wesleyan Methodist Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association, and the Children's Home and Orphanage. It is hoped that the facts and figures, laws and usages, here

brought together in such profusion, will be found useful both to those who are, and to those who are not members of our Churches: the latter will find an authoritative exponent of our history, institutions, and laws; the former will become qualified to sustain a still more intelligent part in our Church life and work.

To the spiritual-minded man who looks below the surface, this book will not only be useful; but it will also have a sentimental interest. It is true that there are in it many details, many statistics, which may at first sight appear dry; but they all stand for and represent various aspects of a work which is essentially spiritual and Divine. Even the names of standard-bearers who have passed away, and are now among the 'cloud of witnesses,' will not be without attraction to those who knew them, and who can summon up their forms and faces before the sessions of silent thought. Even dates will not be without interest to those who see in them the landmarks of our Church history. This book is very different from a poem, it is only a humble compendium; nevertheless, it makes an appeal to the man of spiritual imagination to which he will not be slow to respond. To such a man the details, which others may regard as dry, will be instinct with vitality. He will see in them not only the glory of the past and the life of the present; but it may be also that he will be able to discern therein the promise and the potency of a future yet nobler and more fruitful in the century which is about to dawn.

1899.

E. ASKEW, *Editor*.
E. D. CORNISH.
J. C. BREWITT.
H. T. CHAPMAN.
E. BOADEN.
A. CROMBIE.
R. ABERCROMBIE.

ABBREVIATIONS.

<i>Asst. Bk. St.</i> , Assistant Book-Steward.
<i>Asst. Sec.</i> , Assistant Secretary.
<i>Asst. Tr.</i> , Assistant Treasurer.
<i>Bk. St.</i> , Book-Steward.
<i>C. E. Sec.</i> , Christian Endeavour Secretary.
<i>Ch. Sec.</i> , Chapel Secretary.
<i>Ch. Tr.</i> , Chapel Treasurer.
<i>Col. Sec.</i> , College Secretary.
<i>Con. Sec.</i> , Connexional Secretary.
<i>Cor. Sec.</i> , Corresponding Secretary.
<i>Ed.</i> , Editor.
<i>Exam. Sec.</i> , Examination Secretary.
<i>Fin. Sec.</i> , Financial Secretary.
<i>Gen. Mis. Sec.</i> , General Missionary Secretary.
<i>Gen. Sec.</i> , General Secretary.
<i>Pres.</i> , President.
<i>P. T. I.</i> , Principal of Theological Institute.
<i>Sec.</i> , Secretary.
<i>Tr.</i> , Treasurer.
<i>Tr. S. & B. F.</i> , Treasurer of Superannuation and Beneficent Fund.
<i>Tr. S. S. F.</i> , Treasurer of Sunday School and Local Preachers' Funds.

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A SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.

A HISTORY can always best be written when the subject-matter of it is ended. The old saying has much truth in it: "Call no man happy till he is dead." It is common now to publish biographies of men who are still living: but those biographies may be belied by the after-course of their heroes. What is true of the life of a man is true also, *mutatis mutandis*, of that of a community: in the eyes of posterity, it may be very different from what it appears to men of our generation. Especially in the case of a denomination which has only recently begun to be, and which has tried a great experiment in ecclesiastical polity, it behoves us to remember that any history which can now be written is necessarily incomplete, and can only describe tendencies, whereas the men of after-ages will judge by results. All history, however, is made up of these two things—tendencies and results, ideals and victories or defeats; and if the former somewhat predominate in the narrative of the early life of a Connexion, it is not therefore to be regarded as unhistorical: on the contrary, it supplies one, and that the most important, element, without which no true or inspiring history can be written either now, or in the days to be.

The Methodist Free Church was thought to be so much in harmony with the times by its early adherents, that many of them anticipated for it rapid and unexampled prosperity: but no wise, even though friendly, outsider would have cherished any such expectation. He would have reflected that the

founders of the body had to begin from the very foundation, whilst they left a body in which their time, talents, and money for many years had been invested. He would have borne in mind also that a Free Church, at its first rise, was likely to contain not only the true friends of freedom, but likewise a certain proportion of those unruly spirits who perpetrate every now and then some grotesque caricature of democracy. He would have remembered that the greatest difficulties are always at the commencement, and that even Wesleyan Methodism, notwithstanding a leadership never excelled for genius or industry, did not number 80,000 adherents in this country at the death of Wesley. And a man who took all these things into account would not have expected a quicker rate of progress than that at which the Methodist Free Church has advanced, during the first four decades of its denominational life.

The name of the body is "The United Methodist Free Churches." It is a long, but descriptive title. Especially would we emphasise the word *united*. The Methodist Free Church is one of the most *united* bodies in Christendom, and almost from the very beginning has flourished by means of unions.

Free Methodism first existed under the name and title of Protestant Methodism. The name was characteristic of the men who founded it. They were true Protestants. They protested against that system of centralised bureaucracy which was overspreading Methodism like a web, and tightening its folds round all its Circuits and Ministers. It is true that they appeared to be narrow and illiberal; they seemed to be opposed to the æsthetic element in public worship, inasmuch as they were not in favour of the establishment of an organ in Brunswick Chapel, Leeds; but it must be remembered that the organ was only the occasion, not the cause, of the struggle which ended in the formation of Protestant Methodism.

Each one of the Methodist agitations for freedom has had a different *occasion*, but essentially the same *cause*. In 1827, the fight was nominally about an organ; it was really about the rights of the laity. In 1835, the occasion of the struggle was the Theological Institute; but the cause was still the same. In 1849, the treatment of three Ministers was the occasion of the disruption; but the true cause was the resolution, on the

part of large numbers of the laity, no longer to put up with the bureaucracy of Dr. Bunting and the doctrine of pastoral supremacy.

It was inevitable that such a struggle, sooner or later, should arise; inevitable both on account of the characteristics of our time, and also on account of the nature of Methodism. For what is Methodism, as distinguished from other systems? It is essentially social. It is pervaded by the spirit of Biblical Churchmanship. It cannot truly exist apart from Christian fellowship. It has more lay-agents than any other denomination. It takes its leaders, local preachers, and other officials from all classes of society. Such a system was democratic in spirit, if not in form. It was, therefore, certain, from the very nature of Methodism, that a struggle would one day arise, whatever might be the occasion.

Still this struggle might have been avoided, if there had been a disposition to conciliate. Both the Reformers of 1835 and those of 1849 would have been, at one time, contented with a *minimum* of concession to the rights of the laity, as compared with that which they afterwards embodied in their ecclesiastical polity.

The history of the Methodist Free Church is the history of a series of unions. In 1835, the Wesleyan Association was formed. In 1836, the Protestant Methodists united with the Wesleyan Association. In 1839, the Arminian Methodists joined themselves to the amalgamated body. In 1849, the Reform agitation arose, in consequence of the expulsion of Messrs. Everett, Dunn, and Griffith, who refused to answer questions as to the authorship of the "Fly Sheets"—publications in which Dr. Bunting's administration of Methodism was criticised. The *gravamen* of the charge in the case of Mr. Griffith was that he declined to pledge himself not to contribute to the pages of the *Wesleyan Times* newspaper unless his brethren would pledge themselves not to contribute to the *Watchman*. Wholesale expulsions took place of those who sympathised with the expelled ministers. In the course of a few years, Methodism lost 100,000 members. It was at first intended that agitation should go on within the body until its objects were attained: but it was soon seen that this was not desirable, even if it had been practicable. Neither in the commonwealth nor in the Church is it well that

agitation should become the order of the day. It was found better to separate than to keep up a perpetual agitation.

The subject of amalgamation between the Reformers and the Wesleyan Association was first considered at the Delegate meeting of Reformers held in Birmingham, in the year 1854. The more it was discussed, the more clearly was it seen that there was no essential difference between the principles of the two bodies. The amalgamation was consummated in the year 1857, at Rochdale, where an Annual Assembly was held, consisting of joint representatives of the two communities. The external union, both at the beginning and ever since, has been the sacrament of a true inner unity; so that now no one ever thinks of, and it is impossible to tell, any distinction between Wesleyan Associationists and Reformers.

The amalgamated body largely increased its members during the first decade. One source of this increase was the amalgamation of several Circuits after the general amalgamation. It must also be remembered that Free Methodism began its ecclesiastical existence with a number of able men—both ministers and laymen—many of whom were in the prime of life. There were several of the laymen who fulfilled the function of lay Bishops: they consecrated themselves to Christian work, they were the backbone of their respective Circuits, and when their callings in life took them to various parts of the country they hardly ever failed to visit the ministers and churches of the denomination. Since then, the interests of laymen have been scattered over a wider sphere; but we have still some who may be regarded as spiritual successors of the Founders of the Body, and we hope and pray for more.

Since the lapse of the first decade, there have been several large additions to our membership. From 1874 to 1877, there was an increase of 6431 members. In 1882 and 1883, there was an increase of 2738. From 1895 to 1898, there was an addition of 3423; notwithstanding the loss of 982 members, who became merged in the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Much work has also been done in the formation and consolidation of our various Institutions, which have rendered great Connexional service. Of these we shall give little more than a brief enumeration here, as a full account will be given of them in the after-part of the volume.

In 1868, the Chapel Loan Fund was established, which has done much in the removal of Chapel debts. In 1872, the Ministerial Training Institute began its work. At the Annual Assembly of 1875, it was resolved to establish a Connexional School; in consequence of this resolution Ashville estate, near Harrogate, was bought, and the house upon it converted into a School. At the same Assembly, was started the Home Mission Chapel Extension Fund.

In 1880, the Connexional Temperance League was founded. In 1882, the present Secretary was freed from Circuit engagements and enabled to devote all his time to Temperance work. By this arrangement, we established a precedent which has been followed by other religious bodies.

In 1881, the Methodist Free Church was represented by twenty-two Ministers and Laymen at the Methodist Ecumenical Conference held in City Road Chapel, London. The Rev. W. Griffith was one of the representatives. He shook hands with some of the men who had been parties to his expulsion, and to the last moment of his life rejoiced that he had been a member of a united Conference of Methodists.

The 25th anniversary of the Amalgamation was celebrated by a fund called the Silver Wedding Fund; and in 1890, a Wesley Memorial Fund was started, most of which has been devoted to Missionary extension.

The Methodist Free Church has always taken great interest in Missions, and has now Missionary churches in Australia, Jamaica, Boco del Toro, East Africa, West Africa, and China. It may appear to some that our policy ought to have been one of extension rather than concentration; but it must not be forgotten that each one of our Missions was undertaken in obedience to clear indications of the Providence of God, and we are therefore clearly entitled to expect His blessing.

On reviewing the history of the Methodist Free Church, we have many reasons for hearty thankfulness to Almighty God. We ought to thank Him for the able and self-sacrificing men who founded the body. We ought to thank Him that He has so taught and touched us by His Holy Spirit that we have been enabled to combine the love of union with the love of liberty, so that no Church has exceeded us in the efforts which it has been prepared to make in behalf of Methodist unity. We ought to thank Him for the leaven of

freedom which has spread from us to the Mother Church of Methodism—a church which will always be dear to our hearts. We ought to thank Him that He has called us to a Missionary work so extensive and so noble; and pray that we may rise to the emergency which is now pressing upon us. We ought to thank Him for the good men and women who have been reared among us, and who are now “ministering spirits.” We ought to thank Him for the thousands we have been made the means of bringing into the fold of the Good Shepherd. We ought to thank Him for the bright hopes which we have for the future of our own Church, and of all Christian Churches. May they one and all be more faithful in their testimony, and more pervaded by the Spirit of unity and power!

“And through the ages all along,
This shall be our endless song,
Praise to Thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES, AS EMBODIED IN THEIR FOUNDATION DEEDS.

PREFACE.

THE Foundation Deed of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST ASSOCIATION*, dated the 18th of August, 1840, and enrolled in Chancery on the 15th of February, 1841, became, on the Amalgamation of the *ASSOCIATION* with the *WESLEYAN REFORMERS*, the Foundation Deed of the *UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES*.

Certain alterations, duly made in the provisions of the original Foundation Deed, were embodied in a Supplementary Deed, dated the 28th July, 1881, which was enrolled in Chancery on the 5th day of May, 1882: and other alterations subsequently made were embodied in a second Supplementary Deed, dated 10th November, 1890, and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 8th day of December in the same year.

The following Document, while omitting formal parts, gives all the provisions of the Constitution of the *UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES* which are now in force.

THE CONSTITUTION.

1st, THAT the Annual Assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches shall hereafter consist of such of the Itinerant, and non-Itinerant, usually called Local Preachers, and other official or private Members of the said United Methodist Free Churches, as the respective Circuits, Societies or Churches (such Societies or Churches not being part of any Circuit), for the time being in union with the said United Methodist Free Churches, shall from time to time freely elect and send as their Representative or Representatives, and of such other person and persons, as may be admitted a Member or Members thereof, under the provisions for that purpose hereinafter contained; PROVIDED that the Election of Representatives as aforesaid shall be made at the March Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or other Meeting possessed of like powers, or such Meeting as the said

Constitution of the Annual Assembly.

When and by whom Representatives are to be chosen.

Quarterly or other Meeting shall appoint, and which shall be held by a Circuit, in Great Britain, not later than the 30th day of April, next preceding the Annual Assembly for which the appointments shall be made; and such other Meeting in the Colonies, or Foreign countries possessing, for this purpose, similar powers to those of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting or otherwise, as shall be held immediately before the holding of the Annual Assembly in each year, or at such other Meeting as that Circuit, Society, or Church Quarterly Meeting shall appoint; or in case any Circuit, Society, or Church, does not hold a Quarterly Meeting, then at the Circuit, Society, or Church Meeting held immediately before the said Annual Assembly, according to the rules of such Circuit, Society, or Church; NEVERTHELESS, should any Representative or Representatives elected as aforesaid die before the time of holding of the Annual Assembly, for which he or they may have been chosen, or in case any such Representative or Representatives shall be unable, or neglect, or refuse to be present in the Annual Assembly, then and in any of such cases, the Members of such Circuit, Society, or Church Quarterly Meeting, or other Meeting, as aforesaid, may forthwith elect and send another Representative or Representatives in the stead of the Representative or Representatives so dying or becoming unable, or neglecting, or refusing, to act, or be present in the said Annual Assembly; and thereupon the Annual Assembly, being satisfied of the regularity of the Election, and Testimonial of such last-mentioned Representative or Representatives, shall receive him, or them, as a Member or Members of the said Annual Assembly, to and for which they shall be elected and sent at any time during its sittings. AND that the President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and the Connexional Treasurer, for the year preceding, shall be members of the Annual Assembly for the year next succeeding that of their appointment to such Offices.

Decease, or inability of Representatives to attend.

Connexional Officers of the preceding year to be Members of the Assembly. What Circuits, &c., may send Representatives to the Assembly.

What number they may send.

2nd, THAT Circuits, Societies, or Churches as aforesaid, comprised within the said United Methodist Free Churches, approving of and consenting to receive Itinerant Preachers, appointed by and under the direction of the said Annual Assembly, and contributing to the Connexional Funds of the said United Methodist Free Churches, have, and hereafter (during their continuance in connection with the said Churches) shall have, the right and authority Annually to elect and send Representatives, or a Representative to the said Annual Assembly, therein to sit, deliberate, speak, and vote on all matters and questions within the Jurisdiction of that Assembly:— NEVERTHELESS the number of Representatives sent, and to be sent, by each Circuit, Society, or Church, hath been, and shall be regulated by the number of Members included in every such Circuit, Society, or Church; that is to say, each Circuit, Society, or Church not exceeding 500 Members, may Elect and send one Representative; if exceeding 500 Members then two Representa-

tives; and if exceeding 1000 Members, then three Representatives and no more, whatever may be the number of Members; NEVERTHELESS, no Circuit shall be divided so as to form a new or additional Circuit, except with the consent of the Quarterly Meeting of that Circuit, and of the Annual Assembly. PROVIDED that any other Circuit, Society, or Church, or Union of Circuits, Societies, or Churches, already received, or which hereafter may be received into the said United Methodist Free Churches, but which does not, or shall not receive, and contribute to the support of the Itinerant Preachers, appointed by the said Annual Assembly, or to the General Funds under its control, although desirous of uniting in plans of general usefulness with the said United Methodist Free Churches, may from time to time (during their continuance in connection therewith) be allowed to elect and send a Representative, or such number of Representatives to the said Annual Assembly, as that Assembly shall, from time to time, fix and agree upon:—NEVERTHELESS, such last-mentioned Representatives shall not be entitled to speak or vote on any matter or question touching the calling out, receiving, maintaining, stationing, or exercising discipline upon the Itinerant Preachers, or as to the continuance or extension of, or as to any regulation concerning the Itinerancy of the said United Methodist Free Churches, or affecting any Fund or Funds to which the Circuits sending such Representatives do not severally contribute.

Division of Circuits.

Representatives from Circuits not receiving Itinerant Preachers, &c.

Limitations of power to vote.

3rd, THAT the Members of the Annual Assembly, and their successors for ever, for the time being, shall meet once at least in every year, for the purposes herein mentioned; and the time and place of holding the next Annual Assembly, and all future Annual Assemblies, shall be fixed and appointed at and by the Assembly immediately preceding; otherwise the same shall be held on the second Tuesday in the month of July, in each year, at a place to be fixed by the President; otherwise at the place of holding the Annual Assembly immediately preceding.

Times when the Assembly may meet.

4th, THAT at the beginning of the Annual Assembly in each year, and before any other business shall be transacted, the President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Connexional Treasurer of the preceding year, shall proceed to examine the Testimonials and make out a list of the Representatives; and in event of the death, absence, or refusal to act of such President, Secretaries, or Treasurer, or any or either of them, then such examination and list may be made by such of them as may be present and willing to perform such duties, otherwise such examination and list shall be made before the commencement of other business, by three persons chosen by and out of the Representatives, or persons claiming to be Representatives, meeting to form the Annual Assembly in that year; PROVIDED ALWAYS that if any doubt or dispute shall arise between the parties appointed to make such examination and list, as to the regularity or sufficiency of the Testimonial or election of any

By whom and how the Assembly shall be inaugurated.

Doubtful or disputed Certificates.

How complaints may originate in reference to disputed Certificates.

Each Assembly to publish a list of the Churches and Churches entitled to send Representatives to the next Assembly.

The Act of the Majority to be regarded as the Act of the Assembly. One-sixth of the Representatives to be present to give effect to a Vote of the Assembly; but if one-sixth be not present, the Majority to confirm the Stations and adjourn. Duration and adjournment of the Assembly.

person claiming to be a Representative, then the other Members of the Annual Assembly, whose Testimonials are undisputed, shall, before they proceed to any other business, decide such doubt or dispute; PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, that questions as to the validity or regularity of any such elections, may, notwithstanding any act or omission of the person appointed to make such examination and list as aforesaid, originate by written complaint from a Member or Members of the United Methodist Free Churches, resident within the Circuit, Society, or Church, or union of Circuits, Societies, or Churches, which the Representative, or Representatives, whose election shall be controverted, may represent or may claim to represent; AND ALSO PROVIDED that after such examination and List shall be made in each year, the regularity, validity, or sufficiency of the Testimonials, or election of Representatives then coming and claiming to be admitted to the said Annual Assembly, shall be respectively determined by the said Annual Assembly. AND for ascertaining, from time to time, the Circuits, Societies, or Churches entitled to elect and send Representatives to the said Annual Assembly, such Assembly shall in each year cause to be made out a list of the Circuits, Societies, or Churches, in connection with and composing the said United Methodist Free Churches, such list to be published with the printed Minutes of its proceedings.

5th, THAT the Act of the Majority in number of the Annual Assembly, actually present and voting, shall be taken as, and be the Act of the whole Assembly, to all intents, purposes, and constructions whatsoever, except in such cases as herein is otherwise provided; BUT during the sittings of the Assembly there shall always be one-sixth of the Members of the said Assembly actually present at the doing of any Act, otherwise such Act shall be void; but in case one-sixth of the members of the Assembly should not meet to transact business for three consecutive hours after the time appointed for the sitting of the Assembly, then a majority of the members present shall have power to confirm the stations, and to adjourn as hereinafter is provided.

6th, THAT the duration of the Annual Assembly in each year shall not be more than twenty-one days, to be computed from and inclusive of the day of its assembling; and in case it shall be deemed necessary for completing any Case, Investigation, or other matter, brought before that Assembly, the same may be referred to an adjourned Meeting thereof to be held previous to the next Annual Assembly, but not earlier than two months from the day of adjournment; and the duration of such adjourned Meeting respectively shall not exceed one week, or continue beyond the day before the Meeting of the next Annual Assembly, and the Majority assembled at such meetings shall have power to complete such business.

7th, THAT all Minutes, Resolutions, and Appointments, and all other Acts whatsoever of the said Annual Assembly, shall be entered in the Journals thereof during its sittings, or as soon thereafter as conveniently may be, and subscribed by the President and Secretary for the time being in the presence of two witnesses; but if such Entry, Subscription, and Attestations shall not be so made before the next Annual Assembly, the same shall be entered, subscribed, and attested by such persons and in such manner as the next Annual Assembly shall direct; and such Journal so attested shall be taken and received and be evidence of the Acts and Proceedings of the said Assembly. AND the said Journals of the said Assembly, and of all preceding Assemblies, shall remain and be in the custody of such person, or persons, as the Assembly shall from time to time direct.

Custody of Journals.

8th, THAT the Annual Assembly is hereby authorised to admit upon trial, any person or persons, of whom it shall approve, to be Itinerant Preachers or Missionaries, who have been previously recommended by a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or other Meeting possessed of like power, held according to the rules of the Circuit, to which such person or persons belongs, or belong; and also to inquire into and decide upon the piety, doctrinal views, and gifts of such Itinerant Preachers and Missionaries; and to admit into Full Connexion, to censure, suspend, and exclude them respectively from the Itinerancy, or from being Missionaries of the said United Methodist Free Churches, upon satisfactory evidence of Immorality, erroneous Doctrine, deficiency of Ability, neglect of Duty, or for acting contrary to the rules or regulations of the said United Methodist Free Churches. AND ALSO, from year to year, to appoint to the respective Circuits, Societies, or Churches, and to arrange and finally adjust the appointments of the Itinerant Preachers and Missionaries. NEVERTHELESS the said Annual Assembly shall not have the power to appoint the same Itinerant Preacher to the same Circuit, Society, or Church for more than three years successively, except in such extraordinary cases as shall not be objected to by one-third of the Representatives present: PROVIDED ALWAYS that the Itinerant Preachers, Missionaries, and non-Itinerant, usually called Local, Preachers, and every other person whomsoever, who may preach or expound God's Holy Word, or perform any of the Ordinances or Services of Religious Worship in any of the Chapels, Meeting-Houses, or other places of worship of the said United Methodist Free Churches, shall be of good moral character, and shall not Preach or Teach any Doctrine contrary to, or at variance with, the leading Doctrines or Articles of Faith now believed and taught by the said United Methodist Free Churches, that is to say:—

Admission and expulsion of Itinerant Preachers and Missionaries.

Appointments of Itinerant Preachers. Limitation of time.

Proviso respecting Character and Doctrines.

THAT the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were written under Divine Inspiration, and are a Revelation of the will of God to man, and contain a true and perfect rule of

Doctrines to be preached in Chapels, &c., of the Connexion.

faith and practice; and that therein are revealed the following truths: namely,—That there is One living and true God, infinite, eternal, unchangeable and all-glorious; possessing absolute perfection; the Creator, the Preserver, and the Sovereign of all other beings, and the proper and sole object of all worship; and that in the one all-glorious Godhead, there are three co-equal Persons, named the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son, the Divine and human natures are united.—That the first man and woman were created wise, holy, happy and immortal, and they by voluntary transgression fell from that state, involving themselves and all their posterity in sin and misery, became at enmity with God, prone to evil, and liable to eternal death.—That Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, died for every man; and that His death was, and is, a proper Sacrifice, sufficient Satisfaction and Atonement for the sins of the whole world.—That the influences of the Holy Ghost are indispensably necessary to man's illumination, conviction, conversion, and sanctification. That God willeth the salvation of all men; but that Repentance toward God and Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, on the part of all who are capable of them, are absolutely requisite to salvation.—That Justification is by God's free grace through the atonement of Christ, and is bestowed on all those who, renouncing all sin, trust in Christ alone for salvation.—That the Holy Spirit itself bears witness in those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they are Children of God.—That believers in Christ are born again of the Spirit, and that it is their duty and privilege to obtain salvation from all sin, so that, being sanctified wholly, their whole spirit, and soul, and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of Christ.—That continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ: without this man falls from grace, and may perish eternally.—That the observance of the moral law is of perpetual obligation.—That the Soul of man is Immortal, and at death enters into a state of happiness or of misery.—That there will be a Universal Resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked.—And that the Lord Jesus Christ will come to judge the world in righteousness, when He will receive His saints into eternal glory with Himself, and will condemn the wicked to eternal punishment.

Disbursement of Connexional Funds.

9th, THAT the said Annual Assembly is hereby authorised to direct the application of all the General or Connexional Funds of the said United Methodist Free Churches, which are or may be raised, given, devised, bequeathed, or otherwise provided for the promulgation of the Gospel at home and abroad, for assistance to Circuits, Societies, or Churches, and for other objects and purposes of the said United Methodist Free Churches, of a Connexional nature; and also to manage all matters connected with the Book Room, Publications, Connexional Property, and Missions of the United Methodist Free Churches. ALSO to

arrange and fix the terms and conditions of union with any other Church, Congregation, or Society, or union of Churches, Congregations, or Societies, desirous of uniting with the said United Methodist Free Churches; ALSO from time to time to change or alter the title or designation of the said United Methodist Free Churches, so often as three-fourths in number of the members of the said Annual Assembly, for two successive years, shall so decide; AND ALSO to appoint such Treasurers, Stewards, Editors, and other Officers as may from time to time be required, and deemed necessary, for conducting and managing the Connexional business and affairs of the said United Methodist Free Churches. AND ALSO from time to time to appoint such person or persons, Committee or Committees, Delegate or Delegates, with all or any of the powers and privileges of the said Annual Assembly, or to perform and exercise any of its duties and functions during or between the interval of its Annual sittings; AND ALSO to act for and represent the same in the British Colonies, or in other parts out of the kingdom or dominions of Great Britain; PROVIDED that all such powers shall be consistent with these presents, and shall be limited and prescribed in and by the minute appointing such persons, Committees, or Delegates respectively; NEVERTHELESS all and every the admissions and other matters and things done and transacted by such person or persons, Delegate or Delegates, Committee or Committees when entered in a Minute Book provided for that purpose, and confirmed by the Annual Assembly, and signed by the President and Secretary for the time being in the presence of two witnesses, shall be deemed and taken to be the acts of the said Annual Assembly, to all intents and purposes.

Union with other Churches.

Alteration of Connexional Designation.

Appointment of Officers.

Appointment and powers of Committees.

Powers to be prescribed.

Acts to be recorded and signed.

10th, THAT the Annual Assembly may, and it is hereby authorised at the end of eight years from the holding of the present Annual Assembly, to consider the propriety of any alterations in, or modifications of, the constitution of that Assembly, or in the limitation of time prescribed for the appointment of Itinerant Preachers to the same Circuit, Society, or Church, and so periodically at the end of every succeeding ten years, to be computed from the end of the preceding eight years, to reconsider the propriety of altering the present, or such altered or modified constitution or limitation; whereupon from time to time, if the majority of the Assembly shall judge that any such proposed alteration or modification is requisite, then the nature and particulars thereof shall forthwith be published, and submitted to the consideration of the Circuits, Societies, or Churches. And if two-thirds in number of the Representatives of the said United Methodist Free Churches, assembling for two years next following such publication, shall decide upon the adoption of such alterations, then the same shall be made, and take effect accordingly; PROVIDED ALWAYS that nothing herein contained shall authorise, or be construed to authorise, the said

What alterations may be made in the Constitution of the Assembly.

Principles not voidable.

1. Circuit Interdependence. Annual Assembly, or the Itinerant Preachers, to suspend or expel any non-Itinerant, usually called Local Preacher, Steward, Leader, or other Member of the said United Methodist Free Churches, the Circuit, Society, or Church Meetings and authorities, constituted according to the custom or rule of each such Circuit, possessing the exclusive power of suspending and expelling all such persons; Or whereby the doctrines of the said United Methodist Free Churches hereinbefore stated or referred to, shall or may be altered or controverted by the said Annual Assembly; Or whereby the said Assembly shall, or may become a non-elective or self-elective body; or whereby the right of freely electing and sending Representatives annually as aforesaid, may be destroyed or impeded; or whereby Itinerant, non-Itinerant, usually called Local Preachers, or other official or private Members of the said United Methodist Free Churches may be precluded from being elected and sent as Representatives. AND it is hereby declared that all Minutes and Resolutions, Acts or Proceedings, for effecting all or any of such prohibited purposes, shall be absolutely void and inoperative.
2. Doctrines.
3. Free Representation.

Attempts to alter the principles aforesaid void.

Immorality &c., of an Itinerant Preacher not dealt with locally.

To be temporarily dealt with by the President.

And by the Connexional Committee.

No division of a Church from a Circuit without consent of the Quarterly Meeting and Assembly. Position of a separated Church not constituted a Circuit. President or other selected Minister to be Chairman or Superintendent.

10a, THAT should any Itinerant Preacher, in the judgment of the Connexional Officers, so act as to cause public scandal, and the Circuit or Church Courts should neglect or refuse to deal with the case in accordance with Connexional regulations; or should the Trustees neglect or refuse to deal with the case in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed, or Deeds of the Chapels in the Circuit to which such Itinerant Preacher is appointed, then it shall be lawful for the President of the Annual Assembly for the time being, with the consent of the other Connexional officers, to require the said Preacher to abstain from all Ministerial duties until the meeting of the Connexional Committee next ensuing; and it shall then be lawful for the said Connexional Committee, at its discretion, to continue his suspension from Ministerial duty until the next Annual Assembly, when the case shall be dealt with in accordance with Connexional regulations.

10b, THAT no Society or Church, nor the Trustees of any Chapel or premises (settled on a Connexional Deed) shall separate the Church, Society, or Trust estate, for any purpose whatsoever, from the Circuit to which it belongs without the consent of the Quarterly Meeting of that Circuit and the Annual Assembly. BUT should any Society, Church, or Trust estate so settled as aforesaid, be separated from a Circuit by resolution of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting thereof, with the consent of the Annual Assembly, and such Society or Church be not constituted a new Circuit, nor fully incorporated with some other Circuit, such Society or Church and Trust premises shall be attached to such Circuit as the Annual Assembly shall decide, through which it shall make its numerical and other returns; and the President of the Annual Assembly for the time being, or any Minister selected for that purpose by the Annual Assembly, shall stand

in the same relation to such Society or Church and Trust premises, and possess the same authority, powers, and privileges as the Chairman of the Quarterly Meeting and the Senior or Superintendent Minister of a Circuit; and that the Annual Assembly, or such Committee as it may entrust with the duty, shall sustain the same relations and use the same authority in reference to such Society, Church, or Churches, as appertain to a Circuit Quarterly Meeting; and shall *de facto* be the Circuit Quarterly Meeting thereof for all and every purpose recognised in the Trust Deed or Deeds of such premises. PROVIDED ALSO, that if in any Circuit which does not apply for, or which does not receive, a Minister by appointment from the Annual Assembly in the usual manner, there is any Chapel, or other property, settled on Connexional Trusts, the President of the Annual Assembly for the time being, or any Minister whom the Annual Assembly may select or appoint for that purpose, shall be deemed and be the Superintendent Preacher of such Circuit, and shall be placed on the list of stations accordingly, and he shall possess and exercise all the powers and privileges in relation to such property which belong to the Circuit Chairman or Superintendent Preacher of a Circuit.

11a, THAT the Annual Assembly shall have authority, from time to time, to make and enforce Rules or Regulations for governing its proceedings, and any Member of that Assembly, after repeated admonitions, refusing to observe such Rules or Regulations, may, by vote of two-thirds of the Assembly, be disqualified from taking any part in its proceedings. AND THAT should any Circuit, Society, or Church, or any union of Circuits, Societies, or Churches, comprised within, or united with the said United Methodist Free Churches as aforesaid, become, in the judgment of the said Annual Assembly, corrupt in doctrine, or neglect or refuse to submit to, or to enforce the morality enjoined by the Holy Scriptures, with reference to the conduct of any of its Preachers, Officers, or Members; or if in any other manner or matter it should so act as in the judgment of the Assembly to be unfit for, or unworthy of, continued union with the said United Methodist Free Churches, then that Assembly may, by Resolution or Minute thereof, to be approved of and confirmed by the Annual Assembly held next after the passing and making of such Resolution and Minute, refuse to be connected therewith, or to admit its Representatives into the Assembly; and from the time of such confirmation thereof, and not before, such Circuit, Society, or Church, or such union of Circuits, Societies, or Churches, shall cease to be connected with the said United Methodist Free Churches, and forfeit all rights, property, privileges, and advantages belonging or in anywise appertaining to such connection or union:—PROVIDED ALWAYS that all such Acts and Resolutions, as to the separation of any such Circuit, Society, or Church, or union of Circuits, Societies, Churches or Congregations, and all Acts and Resolutions as to

Assembly or a Committee to be the Quarterly Meeting thereof.

Superintendent of a circuit not receiving a Minister in which there is connexional property.

How the Assembly may enforce Regulations for the government of its own proceedings. How Circuits and Churches becoming corrupt in doctrine, or neglecting discipline, may be dealt with.

Protection from Law suits, &c.

the suspension or exclusion of any Itinerant Preacher claiming any right under this Deed, shall be binding and final, and shall not subject or render liable the said Annual Assembly, or any of its Officers or Members, or any Committee, or Delegate acting under its instructions and authority to any action or suit at Law or in Equity.

Under what circumstances the Connexion may become extinct, and to whom Connexional property will then lapse.

Trusts.

Character and Doctrines of Preachers, &c.

12th, THAT whenever the Members of the United Methodist Free Churches shall not elect and send Representatives to meet together for the purposes aforesaid, for the space of three years successively, or when the number of Representatives elected and sent, shall be less than twenty, for five successive yearly Assemblies thereof, then, and in either of such events the Annual Assembly of the said United Methodist Free Churches shall be extinguished, and all the Chapels, lands, tenements, hereditaments, or premises which now are, or hereafter may be, given or conveyed upon trusts for, or for the objects of, the said United Methodist Free Churches, shall vest in and be respectively held by the Trustees or Trustee thereof, for the time being, and their successors for ever, UPON TRUST, that such Trustees or Trustee, or such person or persons as may be authorised or directed by the respective trust deeds, as the case may be, shall from time to time appoint such person or persons to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, and to have the use and enjoyment thereof for such time and in such manner as to them or him shall seem proper; NEVERTHELESS such person and persons shall be of sufficient ability, moral in conduct, and shall preach and teach therein no doctrines contrary to those herein before stated or referred to.

CIRCUIT RULES AND REGULATIONS.*

The following suggested Rules and Regulations adopted by the Annual Assembly of 1895 are commended to the Churches and Circuits of the Connexion:—

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

1. THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—The United Methodist Free Churches recognise and hold, as the only and sufficient rule of faith and practice, the Holy Scriptures, especially the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and regard as non-essential—so far as membership with a Christian Church is concerned—whatever is not manifestly enjoined in those Sacred Records.

2. CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES.—These Churches concur in those doctrines which are generally taught in the theological writings of the Rev. JOHN WESLEY, and which are held by the various branches of the Methodist community to be consistent with the Holy Scriptures; and which also are thus summarised in the Foundation Deeds of the said Churches:—

“That the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were written under Divine Inspiration, and are a revelation of the will of God to man, and contain a true and perfect rule of faith and practice, and that therein are revealed the following truths: namely,—That there is one living and true God, infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and all-glorious; possessing absolute perfection; the Creator, the Preserver, and the Sovereign of all other beings, and the proper and sole object of all worship; and that in the one all-glorious Godhead there are three co-equal persons, named the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son, the Divine and human natures are united. That the first man and woman were created wise, holy, happy, and immortal, and they by

* Copies of these Rules and Regulations may be had at the Book-Room. Price 1d. each.

voluntary transgression fell from that state, involving themselves and all their posterity in sin and misery, became at enmity with God, prone to evil, and liable to eternal death. That Jesus Christ, by the Grace of God, died for every man; and that His death was, and is, a proper Sacrifice, sufficient Satisfaction and Atonement for the sins of the whole world. That the influences of the Holy Ghost are indispensably necessary to man's illumination, conviction, conversion, and sanctification. That God willeth the Salvation of all men; but that repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, on the part of all who are capable of them, are absolutely requisite to salvation. That justification is by God's free grace through the atonement of Christ, and is bestowed on all those who, renouncing all sin, trust in Christ alone for salvation. That the Holy Spirit Himself bears witness in those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they are children of God. That believers in Christ are born again of the Spirit, and that it is their duty and privilege to obtain salvation from all sin, so that, being sanctified wholly, their whole spirit, and soul, and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of Christ. That continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ; without this man falls from grace and may perish eternally. That the observance of the moral law is of perpetual obligation. That the soul of man is immortal, and at death enters into a state of happiness or of misery. That there will be a universal resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked, and that the Lord Jesus Christ will come to judge the world in righteousness, when he will receive His saints into eternal glory with Himself, and will condemn the wicked to eternal punishment."

3. **CIRCUIT GOVERNMENT.**—Each Circuit in these Churches has, subject to the provisions of their Foundation Deeds—dated respectively, 18th August, 1840; 28th July, 1881; and 10th November, 1890—the right and power to govern itself, by its Local Courts, without the interference of any external authority in its internal and strictly local affairs.

RULES—MEMBERSHIP.

1. **CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP.**—That the condition of membership be the confession of a sincere and earnest desire to be saved from sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, sustained by consistent obedience to God's Word.

2. **MODE OF ADMISSION INTO THE CHURCH.**—That candidates for membership be visited by the Minister or other member of the Leaders' Meeting, who shall be prepared to state that they are fit and proper persons to be members; that they be on probation for at least three months; and that they be received

as fully accredited members at the Leaders' or other Meeting of, or authorised by, the Church.

3. **RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS.**—New Members shall be publicly recognised and welcomed at a Communion Service.

4. **JUNIOR CHURCH MEMBERS.**—It is most desirable that young people should be connected with our Churches; but those under the age of 16 years should be returned only as Junior Church Members.

5. **THE MEANS OF GRACE.**—Persons desiring membership may be received either as attending the Class Meeting, or as Sacramental Members. All members are expected to attend the ordinary Means of Grace, especially the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

6. **CHURCH REGISTER.**—A Church Register shall be kept by a Church Steward or some other duly appointed official, in which the names of all the members shall be recorded.

7. **QUARTERLY TICKET.**—A Quarterly Ticket of Membership shall be issued to each member.

8. **SACRAMENTAL TICKETS.**—That Tickets for each year be supplied to every member; one to be given up at each Sacramental Service.

9. **RECEPTION OF MEMBERS OF OTHER CHURCHES.**—That any person having been a fully accredited member of another Church, be received without probation, and publicly recognised at a Communion Service.

10. **TRANSFER TICKETS.**—That any member leaving the Church to which he belongs, for another, should apply to his Leader or Minister for a Transfer Ticket.

DISCIPLINE.

1. **NEGLECT OF DUTY.**—That members neglecting the duties specified in the above Rules of "Membership" be dealt with by the Leaders' or other Meeting authorised by the Church at its discretion. But no sentence of suspension or expulsion can be passed without seven clear days' written notice of trial and a copy in writing of the charge. (See No. 3 of this Section.)

2. **PERSONAL GRIEVANCES.**—Personal grievances between members should be settled in accordance with our Saviour's rule (Matt. xviii. 15, 16, 17).

3. **INCONSISTENCY AND IMMORALITY.**—If any member is guilty of conduct inconsistent with his profession, the Leaders' or other Meeting authorised by the Church shall appoint one or more of its members, who shall visit and faithfully admonish him. If the inconsistency should continue after such admonition, it shall be dealt with at the discretion of the above-named Meeting. If the case should be one of gross immorality, or of public rumour thereof, then the aforesaid Meeting shall investigate the allegation, and shall adjudicate on the case. But no member shall be expelled or suspended till he has had seven clear days' written notice of trial, and at the same time a copy in writing of the charge, so that he may have a full and fair opportunity of defending himself. Such member to have the right of appeal to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

4. **BANKRUPTCY.**—Should any member take the benefit of any Legislative Act by which he shall not pay his creditors in full, the Leaders', or other Meeting authorised by the Church, shall depute two or more persons from their body, or, should they deem proper, two or more persons who are members of their Society, to inquire into the case, and report to the aforesaid Meeting. If any of our members who have failed in business shall, by the blessing of God, afterwards acquire sufficient property to enable them to pay off their former deficiencies, they ought to do so as soon as possible.

CHURCH MEETINGS.

1. **CONSTITUTION OF CHURCH MEETING.**—The Church Meeting shall consist of persons who have been fully accredited members for twelve months. The Minister, if he be present, to be a member of the Meeting.

2. **BUSINESS OF CHURCH MEETING:—**

(1.) *Report of Leaders' Meeting.*—The Church Meeting shall receive a Report from the Leaders' Meeting, as to all matters relating to the spiritual, numerical, and financial condition of the Church.

- (2.) *Report of Trustees.*—The Church Meeting shall receive annually a Report from the Trustees.
- (3.) *Reports of Sunday School, Band of Hope, Christian Endeavour Society, and other organisations.*—The Church Meeting shall receive annually a report from the Sunday School, Band of Hope, Christian Endeavour Society, and other organisations.
- (4.) *Election of Officers.*—The Church Meeting shall elect Officers, namely, Stewards and Auditors. (*See the Appendix as to the duty of each Official.*)
- (5.) *Representatives to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.*—The Church Meeting shall elect representatives to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, in the ratio of one to every twenty members or portion thereof.

LEADERS' MEETINGS.

1. **CONSTITUTION.**—Leaders' Meetings shall consist of the Itinerant and Local Preachers, Leaders, Assistant Leaders, all the Officers of the Church, representatives of the Church in the ratio of one to forty members or portion thereof, and two representatives of the School. But this regulation must be understood with the proviso that all, except the Itinerant Ministers of the Circuit, must be members of the Church for whose regulation the Leaders' Meeting is held.

2. **TIME OF MEETING.**—A Leaders' Meeting shall be held monthly, or as often as may be necessary, for the transaction of business.

3. **BUSINESS OF THE LEADERS' MEETING:**

- (1.) The Leaders' Meeting shall appoint its own Officers, if needful.
- (2.) It shall nominate or appoint Leaders to classes. In all cases, the classes are to be consulted, as far as possible.
- (3.) It shall receive, and disburse contributions to all funds allocated to it by the constitution of the Church.

- (4.) It shall institute inquiries in regard to the sick and poor members of the Church, and arrange for their visitation and relief.
- (5.) It shall exercise discipline when needful. (*See the Rules under the head of Discipline.*)
- (6.) It shall recommend candidates for the Plan to the Preachers' Meeting.
- (7.) It shall also transact any other necessary business, and present a Report of the financial, numerical, and spiritual state of the Church to the Church Meeting, and Quarterly Meeting.

PREACHERS' MEETINGS.

1. CONSTITUTION AND OFFICERS.—The Preachers' Meeting shall consist of the Connexional Ministers, and Local Preachers, and two representatives from the Quarterly Meeting. It shall elect its own Secretary.

2. TIME OF MEETING.—It shall meet at such times as shall be stated on the Preachers' Plan, or as shall be notified by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Preachers' Meeting.

3. BUSINESS OF THE PREACHERS' MEETING :

- (1.) It shall make inquiries as to the acceptability and character of the Preachers. In case of any charge, the rules under the head of "Discipline" are to be observed.
- (2.) It shall investigate cases, if any, of neglected appointments.
- (3.) It shall receive and consider recommendations of persons for the Preachers' Plan, or as Exhorters, and also of candidates for the Ministry.
- (4.) It shall examine Probationers for full Plan.
- (5.) It shall consider such alterations as may be needful in the Preachers' Plan.
- (6.) It shall consider schemes of usefulness lying within the province of the Preachers' Meeting throughout the Circuit.

- (7.) It shall consider the training and the best means for promoting the efficiency of the Preachers.
- (8.) It shall present a Report to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, which is the highest authority in the Circuit, for its adoption or otherwise.

CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

1. CONSTITUTION.—The Circuit Quarterly Meeting shall consist of the Connexional Ministers, Local Preachers, Circuit Officers, Leaders, and all the Officers of the Churches, one representative from each Sunday School, and also representatives of all the Churches of the Circuit, elected in the ratio of one to every twenty members or portion thereof. But this regulation is made with the proviso that every member of the Quarterly Meeting must be a member of some Church in the Circuit.

2. BUSINESS OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING :

- (1.) The Circuit Quarterly Meeting shall annually elect a Chairman, Stewards, and other Circuit Officers. The Chairman to preside over all Circuit Meetings at which he may be present.
- (2.) The Circuit Quarterly Meeting shall have the right to determine the question of the admission or exclusion of any Society or Church, subject to the provisions of the before-mentioned Foundation Deeds and the Trust Deeds of premises belonging to such Society or Church. Any Society or Church that may be excluded has the right of appeal to the Annual Assembly.
- (3.) It shall invite Itinerant Ministers.
- (4.) It shall receive, and disburse Circuit moneys.
- (5.) It shall appoint the Circuit Plan-making and other Committees. The Secretary of the Preachers' Meeting to be a member of the Plan Committee.
- (6.) It shall consider and decide on all recommendations of candidates for the Connexional Ministry.

- (7.) It shall appoint representatives to District Meetings and Annual Assemblies.
- (8.) It shall receive and adopt or otherwise the Reports of the Preachers' Meeting, and of Circuit Committees.
- (9.) It shall regulate the appointments of Connexional Ministers.
- (10.) It shall investigate any charge brought against any Connexional Minister; such investigation to be conducted in accordance with Connexional regulations, and the previous regulations as to Discipline.
- (11.) It shall consider the spiritual, financial, and numerical condition of the Churches in the Circuit, and shall receive a Report annually from each Trust Estate. It is also advisable that a Report should be presented annually from each Sunday School to the Quarterly Meeting; and that the Circuit Minister or other member of the Quarterly Meeting should be appointed a member of each Teachers' Meeting.

CIRCUIT COMMITTEES.

1. **CONSTITUTION.**—The Circuit Committee shall consist of the Connexional Ministers, Circuit Officers, and also representatives of the various Churches in the Circuit. The proportion of such representatives shall be fixed by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

2. BUSINESS OF THE CIRCUIT COMMITTEE:

- (1.) It shall transact any business remitted to it by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.
- (2.) It shall attend to urgent business between one Quarterly Meeting and another.
- (3.) It shall prepare business for the next Quarterly Meeting.
- (4.) It shall also submit its Minutes to the Quarterly Meeting for adoption or otherwise.

STANDING ORDERS.

1. **THE MAJORITY PRINCIPLE.**—All Questions shall be decided by the majority of those present and voting at a meeting. The Chairman to have a vote, and also a casting vote.

2. **ALTERATION OF RULES.**—No Rule shall be altered or annulled, nor any rule added, except at a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and after written notice has been given at a previous Quarterly Meeting.

3. **THE BALLOT.**—In all cases, the ballot should be resorted to when one-fourth of the members of the Meeting desire it.

4. **RULES OF DEBATE.**—For Rules of Debate, see the "Standing Orders" of the Annual Assembly, in the printed Minutes.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS.

1. **BAPTISM.**—The rites enjoined upon us by the words and example of our Lord and His Apostles are few and simple: but they are significant and binding. Parents should feel it to be both a duty and a privilege to dedicate their children to God in baptism; both parents, if possible, being present.

2. **THE LORD'S SUPPER.**—Every member of our Churches should feel that it is binding upon him to attend the Lord's Supper, commended to us, as it was, by the injunction of our Saviour just before His crucifixion: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

3. **SYSTEMATIC GIVING.**—We would commend to all our members the duty of systematic giving, in proportion as God has blessed them. It is the habits of our life, rather than occasional acts; which both express and form the character. It is the duty of every member to render financial support to the Church of which he is a member. This duty is specially binding on the members of all free Christian Churches.

4. **CHRISTIAN LABOUR.**—Every member of the Church ought to devote a portion of his spare time to some department of Christian work, and to seek the salvation of souls.

5. **CONNEXIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**—We would also impress upon our members the duties of supporting Connexional Institutions, especially the Mission Fund, by their prayers, their efforts, and their benefactions. We are always more interested in that in which we ourselves have invested. Much more could be done for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ if the energies of our Committees and officials were set free by greater liberality on the part of the members of our Connexion.

APPENDIX.

THE CARE OF THE YOUNG.

All children have a special claim to the supervision and care of God's people.

Arrangements should be made by every Church for the formation and maintenance of:—

1. A Sunday School.
2. Junior Society Classes.
3. Young People's Christian Bands.
4. Bands of Hope.
5. Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, or other organisations.

It is important that the distinctly spiritual purpose of these meetings shall always be kept in view, and no effort should be spared to make them bright and interesting.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

I.—CIRCUIT CHAIRMAN.

The Circuit Chairman shall preside over all Circuit Meetings at which he may be present, and shall direct the proceedings thereof in harmony with the preceding Rules and Regulations.

II.—CIRCUIT STEWARDS.

1. To see that all preliminary arrangements are made for holding the Quarterly and Special Circuit Meetings.
2. To receive the money from the Church Stewards, and disburse the same under the direction of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

3. To enter all receipts and payments in the Circuit Account Book; duly balance their Accounts every quarter, and present them to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. These Accounts to be annually audited.

4. To see to the furnishing and other details connected with the houses of the Circuit Ministers.

III.—CIRCUIT SECRETARY.

1. To arrange the programme of the business to be brought before the Quarterly and Circuit Committee Meetings.
2. To keep a record of the business of the Quarterly and Circuit Committee Meetings, and of all Committees appointed by such Meetings, unless a special Secretary is elected.
3. To see that all the Minutes of these meetings are duly attended to.

IV.—CHURCH STEWARDS AND SECRETARIES.

1. To attend the Leaders' and Church Meetings, and keep Minutes of the proceedings thereof.
2. To prepare notices, arrange for due publication of those which have received their sanction, and of all Church and other meetings, religious ordinances, and services, and to take care that due provision be made for the same.
3. To take charge of the Offertory; to see that all collections for Special Funds are handed to the proper officials; to receive from the Leaders the contributions of the members, and pay the moneys received with any other subscriptions for the Circuit Fund to the Circuit Stewards before the Quarterly Meeting. It is desirable that collections of all kinds should be counted in the presence of at least two officers, and at once entered in a book provided for the purpose.
4. To keep the Church Register, and to supply new members with a copy of the Circuit Rules on application.
5. And generally, to act under the direction of the Leaders' Meeting.
6. Church Stewards are in some cases designated Church Treasurers and Secretaries.

V.—POOR STEWARDS.

1. To secure the due announcement of the Lord's Supper and the Lovefeast, and to make suitable provision for the same.
2. To receive grants from the Leaders' Meeting for the relief of the poor, and dispense them as directed by the Meeting.

VI.—LEADERS.

Leaders are appointed to take the spiritual oversight and direction of the members of the Church. Those having charge of classes should meet them punctually each week for fellowship, instruction, and counsel.

All Leaders, conducting classes or otherwise, should—

1. Personally or by their assistant visit their members once per quarter, and sick members as often as convenient.
2. Encourage them to attend regularly the social means of grace, Sunday and week-day.
3. Encourage their members, as a religious duty, to contribute, according to their ability, to the funds established for sustaining Divine Ordinances and extending the Kingdom of God.
4. Pay members' subscriptions quarterly to the Church Stewards.
5. Attend and inform the Leaders' Meeting of the names of persons to be received on probation, or into full membership, or to be removed from the register; they should also report on any case of poverty, sickness, or death.

VII.—TRUSTEE OR CHAPEL STEWARDS.

1. They have charge of the House of God and the rooms attached to it, as representatives of the Trustees.
2. They let the pews and sittings, and make collections for the Trust.
3. They see that the Chapel, School, Vestries, &c., are properly cleaned, warmed, lighted, and ventilated.
4. They, as directed by the Trustees, must keep the premises in good condition, and take the oversight and direction of the Chapel Keeper.



From a Photo. by]

REV. THOMAS SHERWOOD
(Principal Theological College).

ALDERMAN W. H. HART, J.P.

REV. EDWARD BOARDEN
(General Chapel Secretary).

REV. J. C. BREWITT

REV. H. T. CHAPMAN
(General Missionary Secretary).

REV. JABEZ KING

[Harrison, Lincoln.

REV. E. D. CORNISH

ANNUAL ASSEMBLIES.

FROM year to year, in the month of July, the United Methodist Free Churches hold Connexional Meetings for the transaction of Connexional business. These Connexional meetings are called Annual Assemblies.

The Annual Assembly, in dealing with business of a purely Connexional character, answers to the various Conferences of Methodism; but in the manner in which it is constituted, it stands alone. Amongst the Wesleyans, the "Legal Hundred," as it is called, is the legal Conference. Other ministers are allowed to join in its deliberations. Laymen also are admitted in equal numbers to take part in financial questions; but all decisions must be confirmed by the "Legal Hundred," or they are invalid. The Methodist New Connexion Conference is composed of Ministers and Laymen in equal proportions; the Laymen being freely elected by the Circuit Quarterly Meetings. They have also twenty-four life-long members of the Conference, twelve Ministers and twelve Laymen, called Guardian Representatives; six of whom must be present at every Conference, to give validity to its proceedings. The District Meetings and Conferences of the Primitive Methodists are made up in the proportion of one Minister to two Laymen. The Laymen are freely elected by the Circuit Quarterly Meetings to attend the District Meetings; and both Ministers and Laymen are freely elected by the District Meetings to attend the Conference. They have also twelve "Deed Poll" Members of the Conference, eight Laymen and four Ministers. The difference between the mode of constituting these Conferences and the mode of constituting the Annual Assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches will be seen in the fact, that the Annual Assembly has only four *ex-officio* members—viz., the President, the Connexional Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Connexional Treasurer, called Connexional Officers, of the previous year; this minimum of *ex-officio*

members being considered necessary to secure continuity of connexional action. All other members of the Assembly, whether Ministers or Laymen, are freely elected by the March Circuit Quarterly Meetings; and with some dozen exceptions in favour of Connexional officials whose presence in the Assembly is specially needed, all are appointed as Representatives of the Circuits of which they are members. This freedom in the choice of Representatives is one of the two fundamental principles of the Constitution of the United Methodist Free Churches.

For particulars having reference to the number of Representatives Circuits are entitled to appoint, and other kindred matters of interest, see "Constitution," page 8 of this volume.

Notwithstanding this unfettered choice, the Annual Assembly from year to year is composed of Ministers and Laymen in more or less equal proportions, the Ministers preponderating; and small as is the number of *ex-officio* members, each succeeding Assembly has enough of the element of former Assemblies to insure a fair amount of stability and continuity in its work; whilst it has enough of new members to prevent dulness in its discussions, or stagnation in its enterprise.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY NOTES.

HERE you have an account of the Time, Place, and principal Officers of each Annual Assembly, and brief notes of its proceedings. The Assembly moves from place to place in rotation. From 1836 to 1854, it went the round of four circuits—Manchester, Liverpool, Rochdale, and Leeds—with undeviating regularity. In 1855, Manchester takes turn before Leeds, and Liverpool is found no more amongst Assembly Towns. After the amalgamation, the circle became enlarged to ten places—Sheffield, Louth, Manchester, Sunderland, Leeds, London, Bristol, Rochdale, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Nottingham. Now there are twelve Assembly Towns; Redruth coming after Manchester, Norwich after Rochdale, and Lincoln taking the place of Louth in the Eastern Counties.

Year.	Assembly Town.	President.	Connexional Secretary.	Corresponding Secretary.	Connexional Treasurer.
1836	Manchester	...Rev. S. Warren, LL.D....	Mat. Johnson, Esq....	J. J. Lees, Esq.	...Jabez Sanderson, Esq.
	Formation of the Wesleyan Methodist Association, 3rd August, at Manchester. Amalgamation of the Protestant Methodists. Resolve to establish a Home Mission and Connexional Fund. "Resolved, that in any official document or public announcement of the Wesleyan Association, or of the respective Societies, it is inexpedient that the term 'Reverend' should be used in connection with the name of any Preacher in the Association."				
1837	Liverpool	...James Livesey, Esq....	Mat. Johnson, Esq....	Rev. S. Warren, LL.D....	William Smith, Esq.
	Amalgamation of Armilian Methodists. Establishment of "Home Mission and Connexional Fund" and "Book Room." The formation of a "Preachers' Annuity Society" recommended. Commencement of the <i>Connexional Magazine</i> .				
1838	Rochdale	...Rev. Jas. Molineux... Richd. Farrer, Esq....	Rev. Jas. Molineux...	John Petrie, Esq.	
	Amalgamations: Churches in Jamaica under the care of the Rev. Thomas Pennock; "Independent Methodists" of North Wales, and a Church in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). It was reported that in the preceding October Dr. Warren had withdrawn from the Association, and was ordained a Clergyman of the Church of England. Further steps were taken in framing the Foundation Deed and Chapel Model Deed.				
1839	Leeds	...Jas. Sigston, Esq....	Rev. J. Molineux...	Jas. Sigston, Esq.	John Petrie, Esq.
	Establishment of "Thank-offering Fund," to be appropriated to the following purposes:—1. Aged and Superannuated Itinerant Preachers; 2. Aged and Needy Local Preachers; 3. The Extension of Sabbath Schools; 4. The Assistance of Home and Foreign Missions. James Hoyle, Esq., was appointed Treasurer, and Thomas Booth, Esq., Secretary. This Fund was formed to celebrate the Centenary Year of Methodism.				

Year.	Assembly Town.	President.	Connexional Secretary.	Corresponding Secretary.	Connexional Treasurer.
1840	Manchester	... David Rowland, Esq. ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. Jas. Molineux ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	The "Foundation Deed" adopted, signed and enrolled, giving the Association a legal status amongst the Churches of Great Britain. The Deed provides that once in ten years alterations may be made in many of its parts; if only the alteration proposed be sanctioned by two successive Annual Assemblies. The Mission Fund was reported to be in an embarrassed condition.				
1841	Liverpool	... Rev. Robert Eckett ... J. Kipling, Esq.	... David Rowland, Esq. ...	John Petrie, Esq.	
	"Chapel Relief Fund" established, and the "Preachers' Annuitant Society." The Rev. R. Eckett being chosen President, and Thos. Booth, sen., Esq. Treasurer. The question of a Preachers' Fund referred to the consideration of the Circuit Quarterly Meetings. Encouragement given by the Assembly to Itinerant Ministers taking as active a part in the Anti-Corn-law agitation as might be consistent with the maintenance of peace in their Circuits. Mr. Pennock, a Jamaica, attended the Assembly, and spoke at several Missionary Meetings. The death of the Rev. J. H. Roebuck, a young man of unusual promise, was reported.				
1842	Rochdale	... Rev. Thos. Townend ...	Mat. Johnson, Esq. ...	David Rowland, Esq. ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	"Preachers' Children's Fund" established. The Rev. Matthew Baxter appointed to Kingston, Jamaica.				
1843	Leeds	... Rev. John Peters ...	Mat. Johnson, Esq. ...	David Rowland, Esq. ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Establishment of "Beneficent Fund" for the temporary assistance of Ministers suffering from personal or domestic affliction. First election of the "Committee of Privileges," whose business was specially to watch over the interests of the connexion in reference to legislative enactments. Mr. Blythman died during the sittings of the Assembly. His interment at Woodhouse Cemetery was attended by many of the Representatives.				
1844	Manchester	... Rev. Enoch Darke ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. Henry Breeden ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Large numerical decrease deplored, amounting to 5551. Extensive withdrawals in Jamaica. Resolutions adopted recommending the observance of a day of humiliation and increased devotion to Christian work. Financial difficulties so serious that a levy of £5 is made on each Itinerant Minister, his only option being to beg or give the amount. Salaries of Ministers in full connexion reduced to £80, and those of Probationers to £55. Home Missionaries employed at lower salaries, and without any certainty of being admitted into the regular Ministry.				
1845	Liverpool	... Rev. James Molineux ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. Henry Breeden ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Efforts put forth to establish a Connexional Proprietary School, having connected with it a Theological Class for the improvement of Young Men intended for the Ministry. Distribution of Thank-offering Fund:—To Itinerant Preachers' Annuitant Fund, £1652, 1s. 8d.; to Sunday-School Fund, £776, 12s. 8d.; to Local Preachers' Fund, £763, 15s. 2d.; to Mission Fund, £604, 0s. 1d.; and to payment of an old Chancery debt, £102, 13s. 10d.; total, £3950, 13s. 5d. "Resolved, That the resolution concerning the word 'Reverend,' on page 26 of the Printed Minutes of 1836, be rescinded."				
1846	Rochdale	... Rev. Robert Eckett ... J. Kipling, Esq.	... Rev. Henry Breeden ...	John Petrie, Esq.	
	Thanks accorded to the Rev. R. Eckett for his able pamphlet addressed to the Rev. W. M. Bunting, entitled "An Exposition of the Laws of Conference Methodism," in which are stated the circumstances which led to and justified the formation of the "Wesleyan Methodist Association." Fraternal communications between the New Connexion Conference and the Annual Assembly.				
1847	Leeds	... Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. John Peters ...	Rev. Henry Breeden ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Embarrassment in the finances of the Connexion deplored. Missionary income £400 less than expenditure: accounted for by general depression in trade. Salaries of married Home Missionaries reduced to £60 per annum, with house rent.				
1848	Manchester	... Rev. Henry Breeden ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. John Peters ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Limited funds of the Connexion cause great anxiety and prevent additional men being called into the work of the Ministry. The death of the Rev. Thomas Townend, a gentleman who has the repute of having been one of the ablest Theologians the Denomination has produced, was reported.				
1849	Liverpool	... Rev. George Smith ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. John Peters ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Obligation of the Assembly expressed to the Rev. R. Eckett for the satisfactory manner in which he had defended the Connexion against the misrepresentations, derogatory of the Association, contained in the "Judice Volume of the Methodist New Connexion," the <i>Methodist New Connexion Magazine</i> , and a pamphlet by the Rev. P. J. Wright. A legacy of £700 from Mr. Hill, Todmorden, to the Mission Fund was reported to the Assembly. The Rev. Joseph Townend was sent to Australia to establish a Mission in that Colony.				
1850	Rochdale	... Rev. Wm. Patterson ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. John Peters ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Gratitude for numerical, spiritual, and financial success. Salaries of Home Missionaries advanced £5 per annum. A decisive resolution was adopted by the Assembly expressing approval of the end contemplated by the Anti-State-Church Association.				
1851	Leeds	... Rev. John Peters ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. James Molineux ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Numerical decrease deplored: accounted for partly by the attention given to the dissensions amongst the Wesleyans, and the groundless alarm produced amongst the Churches regarding the introduction of some obnoxious new law or practice inconsistent with the principles ever acknowledged and acted upon in the Connexion. The Churches exhorted to put away jealousies and devote themselves with renewed zeal and prayer to the promotion of peace and prosperity. The subject of "Question by Penalty" occupied the attention of the Assembly for eight days. The Rev. M. Baxter's return from Jamaica was reported to the Assembly.				
1852	Manchester	... Rev. Thos. A. Bayley ...	Rev. Robert Eckett ...	Rev. James Molineux ...	John Petrie, Esq.
	Further decrease: attributed largely to emigration, want of suitable efforts to promote prosperity, and needless controversies stimulated by erroneous opinions, or by unholy jealousies, envyings and suspicions. Churches urged to abstain from strife, and labour for peace and prosperity. Hopes entertained of brighter and better times. Owing to the dissensions fostered by him, Rev. J. Carver was left without a Circuit.				

- Year. Assembly Town. President. Connexional Secretary. Corresponding Secretary. Connexional Treasurer.
- 1853 Liverpool ... Rev. Enoch Darke ... Rev. Robert Eckett ... Rev. James Molineux...John Petrie, Esq.
Gratitude expressed that the Connexional decrease, though, in common with that of other branches of the Methodist family, somewhat considerable, was not still larger, considering the "virulent attacks and slanderous misrepresentations derogatory to the character and injurious to the interests of the Connexion," and the efforts made to divide or destroy it. Friends exhorted to thank God and take courage. Mr. Carveth removed from the Ministerial Roll.
The Assembly, taking into consideration passing events in relation to the Methodist family, re-affirmed the Resolution on Union passed in 1836, and expressed the joy that would be felt if a closer union could be effected upon Scriptural principles between all or any of the sections of the Methodist family. The Connexional Committee authorised to take such action as it might deem advisable in furtherance of this purpose.
- 1854 Rochdale ... Rev. Anthony Gilbert...Rev. Thos. A. Bayley ...Rev. Robert Eckett...William Howe, Esq.
Regret on account of further falling-off in numbers, and a re-affirmation of the pleasure that would be afforded to the Assembly by a closer union with one or more branches of Methodism. The Connexional Committee empowered to take needful steps to further that end. Rev. M. Bradney was sent to Australia.
- 1855 Manchester ... Rev. William Dawson...Rev. Robert Eckett...Rev. John Peters ...William Howe, Esq.
Rejoicings over increased numbers and improved prospects. Negotiations between the Wesleyan Association and the Wesleyan Reformers. A Committee of twelve appointed on each side. Terms of Union, as prepared by the United Committees considered and approved. Arrangements made for the consummation of the Union.
- 1856 Leeds ... Rev. Matthew Baxter...Rev. Robert Eckett...Rev. William Reed ...William Howe, Esq.
An increase of more than 800 members reported, exclusive of a few amalgamations. Joy over returning peace and prosperity. General amalgamation deferred, partly in consequence of the concurrence of two-thirds of the Reformers with the Basis of Union not having been obtained until about the time of the holding of the Assembly, and partly that some important questions relating especially to the salaried Ministers of the Reformers might be adjusted.
- 1857 Rochdale ... Rev. James Everett...Rev. Robert Eckett...Rev. William Reed ...William Howe, Esq.
Union between the Wesleyan Association and the Wesleyan Reformers consummated, and the designation "United Methodist Free Churches" adopted. The Connexional Committee was requested to consider the question of making changes in the Foundation Deed, and report to the Annual Assembly of 1858. The Circuits arranged into Districts, and District Meetings established.
- 1858 London ... Rev. Robert Eckett...Rev. William Reed ...Jos. Chipehase, Esq. ...William Howe, Esq.
The Salaries of Married Home Missionaries were raised to £75 per annum. The Assembly expressed its judgment that it was desirable that more efficient provision should be made towards the support of Supernumerated Ministers; and a Committee was appointed to consider the question and report to the next Annual Assembly.

- 1859 Sheffield ... Rev. John Mann ... Rev. Robert Eckett...Rev. Thos. Hacking...William Howe, Esq.
Revs. James Everett and Matthew Baxter instructed to prepare a new Hymn-Book for the Churches. Names of Home Missionaries read for the first time in the Annual Assembly. A cheque for £350 from the Reform Book Room, due to Ex-Reformers who had amalgamated, was handed over to the Book Room.
- 1860 Manchester ... Rev. Thos. Hacking...Rev. Matthew Baxter...Rev. Joseph Colman...William Howe, Esq.
First appointment of a Foreign Missionary Committee and Secretary. The Rev. R. Eckett was elected to the latter office. An Educational Committee appointed to prepare a plan for the training of young men for the Ministry. Resolutions were adopted for diminishing the period of Probation for those Home Missionaries who had served the Connexion for several years.
- 1861 Leeds ... Rev. S. S. Barton ... Rev. Joseph Colman...Rev. Thos. A. Bayley...Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Circuits directed to make the numerical returns through the May District Meetings, and to fill up the Numerical Schedules from the March Quarterly Meeting, instead of June as heretofore. Missions opened in Eastern Africa with considerable enthusiasm. The Connexional Committee instructed to consider the working of the Home Mission system with a view to its modification. Educational Committee's Report ordered to be printed in the Minutes and considered at the Assembly of 1862. For the purpose of securing a uniform and permanent order of business at the Annual Assemblies, the Connexional Committee was instructed during the year ensuing, to prepare a Classified Programme of Connexional business, including a section for miscellaneous matters not capable of being arranged under any specific head; and that the Minutes be printed in sections representing the actual and permanent order of the Assembly's proceedings.
- 1862 Bristol ... Rev. William Reed ... Rev. Joseph Colman...Rev. John Guttridge...Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
"Preachers' Annuitant and Beneficent Society" dissolved, and "Preachers' Supernumeration and Beneficent Fund" commenced. Series of resolutions passed relating to the modification of the Home Mission system. Steps taken towards establishing a Mission in China. Refusal to sanction the application made by the Australian Churches to the Government for participation in State aid granted for religious purposes, and a determination to withhold financial aid from any Circuit or Minister in Australia consenting to accept of State aid. Address to the Queen on the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort. Sudden death of the Rev. Robert Eckett while attending the Connexional Committee prior to the holding of the Assembly. Programme of business prepared and printed in the Minutes. The Rev. T. A. Bayley appointed to Australia.
- 1863 Rochdale ... Rev. John Guttridge...Rev. Joseph Colman...Rev. Thos. Hacking...Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
A variety of resolutions passed relating to the "Preachers' Supernumeration and Beneficent Fund." A Home Mission Scheme for the extension of the work of God in the large towns and cities of Great Britain, prepared and approved. Functions of District Meetings defined and extended. District Conveners appointed. Annended Report of the Educational Committee received and referred back to the Connexional Committee that they might consider the means of carrying out the recommendations which it contained, and report to the following Assembly. Resolutions of a fraternal character passed by the Annual Assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches and the Conference of the Methodist New Connexion respectively. A scheme for directing the studies of Junior Preachers adopted, and arrangements made for their examination by printed questions. The Connexional Committee directed to consider the desirability of preparing a Second Chapel Deed more in accord with the sentiments of many members of the United Methodist Free Churches.

- Year Assembly Town. President. Connexional Secretary. Corresponding Secretary. Connexional Treasurer.
- 1864 N'castle-on-Tyne... Rev. Joseph Colman... Rev. M. Miller ... Rev. Thomas Newton... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
The General Missionary Secretary released from Circuit work, and the office of the Financial Secretary merged in his. District Conveners, in virtue of their appointment by the Annual Assemblies, made members of the District Meetings with which their Circuits stand connected. New "Reference Chapel Deed" advanced a stage. Financial year ordered to end on the 31st of March, instead of June as heretofore. Unmarried Preachers on Probation, and Home Missionaries forbidden to marry without having first obtained the consent of the Connexional Committee. Mission opened in China.
- 1865 Nottingham ... Rev. W. R. Brown ... Rev. M. Miller ... Rev. Thomas Newton... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Adoption of the "Reference Chapel Deed." The London District recommended to arrange for an Annual Missionary Meeting in Exeter Hall, London, in connection with the usual May Meetings.
- 1866 Sheffield... ... Rev. Thomas Newton... Rev. Richard Chew... Rev. Joseph Kirsop... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
The smallest numerical increase during the last eleven years. Ministers, Office-bearers, and Members exhorted to dedicate themselves afresh to Christ.
- 1867 Manchester ... Rev. Richard Chew ... Rev. John Myers ... Rev. Joseph Kirsop... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Chapel Loan Fund of £10,000 established. Donation of £500 to the Mission Fund by the Rev. John and Mrs. Fletcher out of the assets of the late George Wheelhouse, Esq., of Deptford, for which Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher received the thanks of the Annual Assembly. The question of Christian union again committed to the Connexional Committee.
- 1868 Louth Rev. M. Miller ... Rev. John Myers ... Rev. John Adcock... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Alterations in the 7th, 8th, and 9th clauses of the Foundation Deed. The first and last relate mainly to the manner in which and the persons by whom the Minutes of the Assembly shall be entered in the journals and attested. The second provides for a minister accepting an invitation to stay more than three years in succession in a Circuit, if not objected to by a third of the Annual Assembly. It was formerly a sixth. A resolution passed rendering the General Missionary Secretary and Editor for the time being eligible for election as representatives to the Annual Assembly by any Circuit in the Connexion.
- 1869 Sunderland ... Rev. John Mather ... Rev. Robert Bushell... Rev. John Adcock... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Scheme for the gradual abolition of the Home Mission system submitted and approved. The regulations contained therein to be brought into operation at the Assembly of 1870.
- 1870 Leeds Rev. John Myers ... Rev. Robert Bushell... Rev. J. S. Withington... Chas. Cheetham, Esq.
Slight alteration in last year's scheme for bringing the Home Mission system to an end. Theological Institute advanced only a short stage, owing to the recent vigorous efforts to establish the Chapel Loan Fund.
- 1871 London... ... Rev. Edward Boaden... Rev. J. S. Withington... Rev. Joseph Garside... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
A Committee appointed for the Theological Institute. The Rev. Thomas Hacking elected Principal, Rev. S. S. Barton, Secretary, and T. Boddington, Esq., Treasurer. Further powers entrusted to District Meetings.

- 1872 Bristol Rev. J. S. Withington... Rev. John Adcock ... Rev. Joseph Garside ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
The Theological Institute commenced. Ministers' salaries advanced. A second numerical decrease reported. The venerable James Everett was reported to have passed to his reward on 10th May, six days before completing his eighty-eighth year. A tablet is erected to his memory in the Central Metropolitan Chapel. His library and museum were purchased by voluntary subscriptions for £300, and deposited in the Theological Institute.
- 1873 Rochdale Rev. John Adcock ... Rev. Anth. Holliday... Rev. Joseph Garside ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
Rev. Edward Boaden, relieved from Circuit duties, and appointed Secretary of the Chapel Relief and Chapel Loan Funds, Secretary and Treasurer of the Preachers' Children's Fund and Secretary of the Preachers' Superannuation and Beneficent Fund. A series of resolutions passed on "Connexional Evangelism." The Rev. John Mann, the genial and popular minister of our Churches, was reported to have passed away in September, 1872.
- 1874 N'castle-on-Tyne... Rev. Joseph Garside ... Rev. Anth. Holliday... Rev. Thomas M. Booth... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
Resolutions passed with regard to Local Evangelism. Numerical increase reported. The names of the Revs. James Mollioux and Samuel Sellars were, with sorrow, added to the death-roll. Mr. W. Hicks was warmly thanked for his munificent gift of £400 to the Mission Fund. Donations were made to the Everett Library in the Theological Institute by Messrs. W. Howe and W. Hoyle.
- 1875 Nottingham ... Rev. Joseph Kirsop ... Rev. Thomas M. Booth... Rev. Wm. Boyden ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
Two important schemes launched:—1. Home Mission Chapel Extension Fund of £10,000, £5000 to be obtained by subscriptions, &c., and £5000 to be appropriated out of the Mission Fund; payments to extend over five years.—2. An educational establishment for the sons of the Ministers and Laymen of the United Methodist Free Churches.
- 1876 Sheffield Rev. Thomas M. Booth... Rev. Wm. Boyden ... Rev. Samuel Chester ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
Largest numerical increase for thirteen years. Home Mission Chapel Extension Fund declared established. Ashville College to be opened during the year. London Home Mission Scheme submitted and approved.
- 1877 Louth Rev. Anth. Holliday ... Rev. Wm. Boyden ... Rev. T. W. Townend... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
A considerable increase in membership was reported, but a decrease of members on trial. Fraternal greetings were sent by the Assembly to all the branches of the Methodist family. Courteous replies were forwarded by the Wesleyan Conference, signed by W. B. Pope, President, and H. Williams, Secretary; and by the Bible Christian Conference, signed by Thomas C. Penwarden, President.
- 1878 Manchester ... Rev. Wm. Boyden ... Rev. T. W. Townend... Rev. Arthur Hands ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.
A numerical decrease in membership was reported. Regret was expressed that, in consequence of great commercial depression, it was not found practicable to increase the minimum salary of ministers labouring in dependent Circuits, in harmony with the resolution of the Annual Assembly of 1877, and ministers and office-bearers in our Churches and Schools were urged to earnest effort to increase the Mission Fund, with a view to the speedy accomplishment of this end. It was declared that the income of the Superannuation and Beneficent Fund was insufficient to meet the claims made

1879 Sunderland ... Rev. T. W. Townend ... Rev. John Adcock ... Rev. Arthur Hands ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.

The following alterations in the Foundation Deed were agreed upon:—(1.) "To expunge from Section II. of the Foundation Deed the following passage: 'Provided that any other Circuit, Society, or Church, or union of Circuits, Societies, or Churches, already received, or which hereafter may be received into the said Association, but which does not, or shall not, receive and contribute to the support of the Itinerant Preachers, appointed by the said Annual Assembly, although desirous of uniting in plans of general usefulness with the said Association, may from time to time (during their continuance in connection with the said Association) be allowed to elect and send a Representative, or such number of Representatives to the said Annual Assembly, as that Assembly hath fixed, and hereafter shall, from time to time, fix and agree upon; nevertheless such last-mentioned Representatives shall not be entitled to speak or vote on any matter or question touching the calling out, receiving, excluding, suspending, censuring, maintaining, or stationing the Itinerant Preachers, or as to the continuance of, or as to the extension of, or as to any regulation concerning the Itinerancy of the said Association.'" (2.) "To expunge from Section III. as printed below, the words: '*first Wednesday in the month of August*,' and insert in their place, '*last Tuesday in the month of July*.'" "That the members of the Annual Assembly, and all future Annual Assemblies, shall be fixed and appointed at and by the Assembly immediately preceding; otherwise the same shall be held on the *first Wednesday in the month of August*, in each year, at a place to be fixed by the President, otherwise at the place of holding the Annual Assembly immediately preceding." (3.) "To expunge from that portion of Section VI., printed below, the words: '*less than five days, nor*.'" "That the duration of the Annual Assembly in each year shall not be *less than five days, nor more than twenty-one days*, to be computed from and inclusive of the day of its assembling." (4.) "To expunge the following words from Section VIII.: 'Nevertheless the said Annual Assembly shall not have the power to appoint the same Itinerant Preacher to the same Circuit, Society, or Church for more than three years successively, except in such extraordinary cases as shall not be objected to by one-third of the Representatives present.'" The Rev. H. Breeden, the Founder of the Arminian Methodists, was reported to have died in peace.

1880 Leeds ... Rev. W. M. Hunter ... Rev. Edwin Askew ... Rev. Arthur Hands ... H. T. Mawson, Esq.

The resolutions of last Assembly relative to the alterations in the Foundation Deed were adopted and confirmed, and W. H. Cozens-Hardy, Esq., J.P., and the Rev. E. Boaden were authorised to take such steps as were necessary to embody the said alterations, and all such alterations as had been legally made by previous Annual Assemblies in a Supplementary Deed, the draft of which was to be laid before the Connexional Committee for consideration and approval prior to its engrossment. Pleasure was formally expressed that arrangements were being made for a Methodist Ecumenical Conference in City Road Chapel, London, in August, 1881; and the Rev. J. Swann Withington, Editor, and H. T. Mawson, Esq., Connexional Treasurer, were appointed to represent our Churches on the preparatory Committee. The Revs. S. S. Barton, W. M. Hunter, T. Newton, Messrs. W. Butler, W. H. Cozens-Hardy, J.P., and T. Watson, J.P., were subsequently added to this Committee. The Free Methodist Temperance League was formed, and a Committee duly appointed, of which T. Watson, Esq., J.P., was Treasurer, and the Rev. J. S. Balmer, Secretary.

1881 London ... Rev. Richard Chew ... Rev. Edwin Askew ... Rev. R. Abercrombie, M.A. ... T. Watson, Esq., J.P.

Under the direction of the Chapel Committee interesting statistics were collected about Chapel and School property, &c., &c. (See account of Chapel Funds.) The following twenty-two brethren were appointed by the Annual Assembly to represent the United Methodist Free Churches at the forthcoming Methodist Ecumenical Conference, viz:—The Revs. R. Chew, President; R. Abercrombie, M.A.; S. S. Barton; W. Griffith; J. Guttridge; A. Holliday; J. Kinson; M. Miller; J. Myers; T. Newton; J. Swann Withington; Messrs. T. Boddington; W. Butler; W. H. Cozens-Hardy, J.P.; R. Ellis, J.P.; J. P. Fresh; J.P.; Captain King; Messrs. G. Luckley, J.P.; H. T. Mawson; R. G. Rows; T. Snape; T. Watson, J.P. The Revs. W. M. Miller and Mr. W. H. Cozens-Hardy, J.P., did not attend the Conference, and the Rev. W. M. Hunter and Mr. E. S. Snell were requested to attend in their place—the next in order on the voting list. The Revised Version of the New Testament having been published during the presidency of the Rev. W. M. Hunter, a large copy of the same was presented to him, bearing a suitable inscription in commemoration of the event. The following resolution was also adopted:—"That this Annual Assembly desires to record its deep sense of indebtedness to the eminent scholars of all sections of the Christian Church, both in Great Britain and America, who have laboured for a period of more than ten years to provide for us a Revised Version of the English New Testament; also to express its appreciation of the conscientious and admirable manner in which the work has been done, and the Assembly earnestly commends it to the prayerful study of both ministers and people throughout the connection." A gratifying numerical increase was reported. The question of District Evangelism was referred by the Assembly to the careful consideration of the Connexional Committee. The venerable Richard Abercrombie was reported to have passed to his reward in the eighty-fifth year of his age, and the forty-fifth of his ministry in our Churches.

1882 Bristol ... Rev. Arthur Hands ... Rev. Edwin Askew ... Rev. Thos. Sherwood ... T. Watson, Esq., J.P.

Gratifying numerical increase reported, but it is accompanied by great depression in the Connexional Funds, arising from the continued depression in trade. The Annual Assembly resolved not to give its consent to the division of Circuit if that division should involve a grant in support of the ministry from Connexional Funds. New regulations were adopted for testing the efficiency of Candidates for the Ministry, and Ministers on probation. Twenty-five years having elapsed since the amalgamation between the Wesleyan Association and the Wesleyan Reformers, it was resolved to celebrate the event by raising a fund of not less than £25,000 (subsequently the amount was fixed at £30,000) in aid of various Connexional Institutions. The first public appeal for subscriptions was to be made at the Assembly of 1883, at Rochdale, where the amalgamation was so happily consummated in 1857. The Rev. Robert Bushell, Ex-General Missionary Secretary, and the Rev. William Patterson, were added to the number of departed worthies.

1883 Rochdale ... H. T. Mawson, Esq. ... Rev. Edwin Askew ... Rev. Thos. Sherwood ... T. Watson, Esq., J.P.

This Annual Assembly was signalised by the election of the first lay President since 1840. The appeal on behalf of the memorial Fund was most earnest, and the responses ready and enthusiastic. Wm. Butler, Esq., was appointed Treasurer; Rev. E. Boaden, Secretary; and Rev. W. R. Summan, Secretary of the Ministerial Branch, which, it was proposed, should be brought up to not less than £3000. Promises were given before the close of the Assembly for over £14,000. The following resolutions were adopted:—1. That in the opinion of the Assembly a Special Committee, selected by the Connexional Committee, be appointed to consider and report to the next Annual Assembly upon the

production of the new book. 3. That it be an instruction to the Committee to ascertain and report upon the adoption of the Hymn-Book as printed for the Wesleyans. A scheme prepared by the Connexional Committee was conducted by the Annual Assembly, favouring the employment of one or two Ministers and one or two Laymen for conducting Special Evangelistic Services throughout the Connexion. Much sorrow was expressed on account of the death of the Venerable William Griffith, after fifty-five years of ministerial service. A numerical increase of 1485 members was reported, and a decrease of 1330 on probation.

1884

N'wcastle-on-Tyne... Rev. Edwin Askew... Rev. Thos. Sherwood... Rev. James S. Balmer... T. Watson, Esq., J.P.

It was reported that promises for the Commemorative Fund had reached £24,833, and that £2747 was promised by Ministers. Resolutions were adopted in relation to the proposed New Hymn-Book. It was reported that owing to insuperable legal difficulties the Wesleyan Book Room was unable to entertain the proposal to sell to its plates of their Hymn-Book for our use. The following were appointed a Special Hymn-Book Committee, Revs. M. Miller, S. S. Barton, J. Swann Withington, J. Kirsop, A. Jones, R. Chew, J. Myers, R. Abercrombie, M.A., Messrs. G. Luckley, J.P., T. Watson, J.P., and T. Snape. It was further resolved that, in the judgment of the Annual Assembly, the time had come for providing a New Sunday-School Hymn-Book to consist of from 400 to 500 hymns, to be prepared by the above-mentioned Committee. Considerable attention was directed by the Missionary Committee, the Connexional Committee and the Annual Assembly to the proposed union of the various branches of Methodism in Australia and New Zealand. This project failed mainly through the adverse action of the Triennial Conference of the Wesleyans of Australia and New Zealand.

1885

Nottingham ... Rev. Alfred Jones ... Rev. Thos. Sherwood ... Rev. James S. Balmer ... T. Watson, Esq., J.P.

It was reported that the year had been unusually fruitful in legacies to various Chapels in the Connexion. Four out of the five Ministers who died during the year were Ex-Presidents—viz., the Revs. W. R. Brown, A. Gilbert, T. Newton, and G. Smith; the other was the Rev. R. Bell. The Commemorative Fund Subscriptions reached £32,293, 12s. 7½d., including £3086; the promise by the Ministers of the Connexion. A New Scheme for the Examination of Candidates for the Connexional Ministry at the several stages of their course was adopted. It was also resolved that an Examiner should annually be appointed—other than the President or Theological Tutor—to conduct the brethren through the prescribed course. This was the first Assembly beginning on the second Tuesday in July.

1886

Sheffield ... Rev. Thos. Sherwood... Rev. James S. Balmer... Rev. George Turner... T. Watson, Esq., M.P.

The murder of the Rev. John and Mrs. Houghton by the Massi tribe at Golbanti, East Africa, was reported. Two other conspicuous figures disappear from the scene they have so much adorned, and join the ranks of the great majority—viz., the Revs. Wm. Reed and J. Guttridge. Connexional Funds continue depressed, and resolutions are adopted proposing a scale for the reduction of grants to relieve the Mission Fund. Promises on behalf of the Commemorative Fund now amount to £32,400. Payments made during the year are pronounced highly satisfactory. They now reach £12,832, 17s. 7½d. for Connexional purposes, and £5249, 8s. 11½d. for Local purposes; total £18,082, 1s. 6½d. Progress was reported by the Hymn-Book Committee; the Sunday-School Hymn-Book being nearly ready for the press. Regulations for "Preachers' Children's Fund," "Local Preachers' Fund," "Sunday-School Fund," and "Written Examinations," were codified; and may be found in connection with the Institutions to which they relate, in this Book.

1887

London ... Rev. J. S. Balmer ... Rev. G. Turner ... Rev. M. T. Myers ... Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
A loyal Address was sent to the Queen on the occasion of the Jubilee of her reign. A slight increase on the amount promised to the Commemorative Fund was reported, and the payments made were said to reach £15,377, 14s. 3d. for Connexional objects, and £2658, 18s. 9d. for Local purposes. Seven ministers died during the year, two having reached an advanced age; the Rev. John Cartwright being in his eightieth year, and the Rev. Joseph Colman being in his eighty-fourth. The latter was Connexional Secretary from 1861 to 1863, and President in 1864. The Assembly was, also, called to mourn over the loss of Thomas Watson, Esq., M.P., who was Connexional Treasurer from 1881 to 1886, and whose benefactions to the Churches were so liberal. The formation of a Connexional Fire Insurance Association was agreed upon, and the Connexional Committee was instructed to draw up a plan for its organisation. The Connexional Committee was also requested to consider whether it was desirable to make any changes in the Foundation Deed at the end of this decade, and report to the next Annual Assembly.

1888

Manchester ... Rev. T. Wakefield ... Rev. G. Turner ... Rev. M. T. Myers ... Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
The death of six senior ministers, whose average age reached over seventy years, was reported; two of them, the Rev. William Dawson and the Rev. William M. Hunter, were Ex-Presidents. Two other brethren who had respectively occupied three of the four chief Connexional offices were made permanent Supernumeraries—the Revs. Wm. Boyden, and John Myers. The year's payments to the Commemorative Fund reached £3693, 11s. 8d. for Connexional objects, and £792, 1s. 7d. for Local purposes. The Connexional Financial Scheme was said to be working with vigour and success. By the activity of the Secretary, the Rev. W. Jones, the Treasurer's deficit of £42, 5s. 2d. was changed into a surplus of £66, 14s. 0½d. Regulations for the Free Methodist Fire Insurance Association were formulated, and that excellent institution was started on its way. Resolutions on Annual Assembly business. Several changes in the Foundation Deed being to curtail formal and routine work, and so expedite Assembly business. The changes in the Foundation Deed were suggested by Great Britain to elect representatives to the Assembly in March. Instead of June as heretofore; and also to define more clearly when and in what manner the Churches in the Colonies or Foreign Countries should elect representatives to the said Annual Assemblies. To Clause II. was restored a section that had been expunged in the revision of 1879 to enable the Annual Assembly on just and equitable lines to bestow the powers of representation on Circuits that have no itinerant Ministers, and also to establish principles affirmed in the Basis of Union, 1857. Clause III. was altered so that the second Tuesday in July should be named as the day for the commencement of the Annual Assembly instead of the last Tuesday of that month. Clause V. was altered so that one-sixth of the members of an Assembly shall constitute a quorum, instead of one-fourth as heretofore. To Clause VIII. was restored what was omitted at the last revision, so that the power of the Annual Assembly to appoint a minister more than three years successively to a Circuit in which there are Chapels settled on the Model Deed may be indisputably legalised. Clauses XA. and XB. are now provided that in the event of a public scandal caused by an itinerant minister, and the Circuit or Local Courts neglecting or refusing to take up the case according to Connexional regulations, and the trustees neglecting or refusing to take up according to the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the Chapels of the Circuit, then the President, in conjunction with the three other Connexional Officers, shall have the power to require the said preacher to abstain from all ministerial duties till the next meeting of the Connexional Committee, and that the said Committee may continue the suspension until the Annual Assembly, when the case shall be dealt with according to rule. The Revs. R. Chew and J. Myers were requested to visit the Jamaica Churches, and were empowered to settle certain questions of difficulty that would be submitted to them for consideration.

* See Notes on the Assembly of 1879.

- Year. Assembly Town. President. Connexional Secretary. Corresponding Secretary. Connexional Treasurer.
- 1889 Redruth ...Rev. R. Abercrombie, M.A. ...Rev. M. T. Myers...Rev. J. Truscott ...Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
- This was the first Assembly held in a town west of Bristol. A hearty Cornish welcome was accorded to the Representatives; seven ministers had passed away during the year, amongst them being the highly gifted Marmaduke Miller, the devoted missionary, Thomas Truscott, and the honoured veteran, Joseph Townend. Mr. Miller was Connexional Secretary in 1864 and 1865, President in 1868, and Editor from 1871 to 1877. The Rev. John Mathier, who was President in 1869, and had had a very successful career as a Minister, retired from active work. An increase of 557 Church Members was reported. A Committee was appointed to confer with the Methodist New Connexion on the subject of Methodist Union. The following are the names of the Committee:—Revs. R. Abercrombie, M.A., S. S. Barton, E. Boaden, R. Chew, A. Holliday, T. Sherwood, J. S. Withington, Messrs. R. Bird, J.P., W. Butler, J. H. Crosfield, Ald. J. Green, J.P., H. T. Lawson, R. G. Rows, C.C., T. Snape, C.C. The Connexional Year for the first time closed on 30th April, instead of 30th June. Thanks were accorded to the Revs. R. Chew and J. Myers for their valuable services to the Jamaica Churches. The effects of last year's rules of procedure were seen in the fact that the business of this Assembly was brought to a close on the Wednesday afternoon.

- 1890 Leeds ...Rev. M. T. Myers ...Rev. John Truscott...Rev. S. Wright ...Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
- It was reported that three Superintendents had entered into rest—the Revs. T. M. Booth, J. W. Gilchrist, and J. Myers. Mr. Booth was Corresponding Secretary in 1874, Connexional Secretary in 1876, and President in 1877. Mr. Gilchrist was in his 83rd year, and the 54th year of his ministry. Mr. Myers was Connexional Secretary in 1867 and 1868, and President in 1879. The Rev. J. Swann Withington, who had filled three of the highest offices of the Connexion, and also the office of Connexional Editor, after 50 years of ministerial service, became a Supernumerary. 79,000 copies of the New Hymn-Book were sold in six months. Mr. Snape took the place of Mr. Lawson as Treasurer of the Superannuation and Beneficent Fund. A Miller Memorial Fund of £1085, 12s. 3d. was raised. A portrait of Mr. Miller was placed in the Manchester College, and the balance, £1013, 14s. 10d. was set apart as a College Scholarship to bear the name of "The Marmaduke Miller Scholarship." Mr. J. Duckworth generously presented to the Connexion the "Jubilee Mission Car," for which he was heartily thanked.

- 1891 Sunderland ...Rev. M. T. Myers ...Rev. J. Truscott ...Rev. S. Wright ...Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
- After fifty-one years of ministerial labour, forty-seven of which were in connection with Free Methodism, Rev. S. S. Barton asked to be made a Supernumerary. The sale of the New Hymn-Book brought the profits of the Book Room up to £1800. Rev. R. Abercrombie, M.A., resigned his office of Connexional Editor, and was heartily thanked by the Assembly for his able services. A new departure in Magazine literature was resolved upon. Another car—viz., "The John Wesley Mission Car," was kindly given by Mr. J. Duckworth to the Connexion. Messrs. J. A. and S. Bowron generously presented to the Denomination furniture for a Training Home for Female Evangelists, with a promise of liberal support, as a memorial of their father. It was resolved to celebrate the centenary of the death of John Wesley by raising a special fund for aggressive Christian work at home and abroad, to be called "The Wesley Memorial Fund," the scheme to extend over three years. Rev. C. H. Goodman was appointed to commence a new Mission in the Mendi Country, West Africa. It was reported that the Methodist, New Connexion Conference had closed the negotiations for the Methodist Union. A decrease of 135 church members was reported, the first since 1879. The following is the list of Representatives to the Eccumenical Conference at Washington in October next, as confirmed by this Assembly:—Revs. M. T. Myers, J. Truscott, G. Turner, A. Holliday, E. Boaden, R. Abercrombie, M.A.,

J. S. Balmer, D. Brook, M.A., B.C.L., W. Reifern, W. R. Sunman, J. S. Withington, Messrs. J. G. Addison, J. E. Balmer, W. H. Butler, J. H. Crosfield, J.P., Conn. J. Duckworth, H. G. Gregory, S. Hartley, W. Penrose, R. G. Rows, J.P., C.C., T. Snape, C.C., R. Turner.

- 1892 London ...Rev. J. Truscott ...Rev. W. R. Sunman...Rev. S. Wright ...Robert Bird, Esq., J.P.
- The interest in this Annual Assembly was enhanced by its sittings being held in Wesley's Chapel, City Road. As a memento of this event, Mr. G. S. Knight made a generous offer to place a Memorial Window in the Chapel, which was graciously accepted by the Wesleyans. In January, *The Methodist Monthly*, with Revs. A. Crombie and J. Marshall Mather as Editors, made its appearance, superseding the three older Magazines. The scheme for the Training of Local Preachers was inaugurated, with the Rev. E. Askew as Secretary and the Rev. C. Ogden as Examiner. It was resolved to arrange for a week of self-denial on behalf of the "Wesley Memorial Fund." The library of the late Rev. R. Eckett was presented to the Connexion by his widow. The gift was suitably acknowledged.

- 1893 Bristol ...Rev. S. Wright ...Rev. W. R. Sunman...Rev. H. T. Chapman ...Robt. Bird, Esq., J.P.
- Amongst the six departed worthies of the year are the names of the venerable Matthew Baxter, of New Zealand, and Thomas Hacking. Mr. Baxter was President in 1856, Connexional Secretary in 1860, and Connexional Editor and Book Steward from 1854 to 1860. Mr. Hacking was Corresponding Secretary in 1859 and 1863, President in 1860, and Principal of the Theological Institute from 1871 to 1880. New Tune-book published by the Book Room. The Chapel Committee and the Superannuation and Beneficent Committee moved into one under the name of Chapel and Superannuation and Beneficent Funds Committee. Scheme launched for raising £25,000 on behalf of the Theological Institute. Mr. J. Duckworth undertaking to carry out and complete the work. Scheme for awarding the Marmaduke Miller Scholarship adopted.

- 1894 Rochdale...Ald. J. Duckworth, Esq., J.P. ...Rev. W. R. Sunman...Rev. H. T. Chapman...Ald. W. H. Hart, Esq., J.P.
- Four ministers died during the year: one of whom was Rev. S. S. Barton, who was President in 1861, and General Missionary Secretary from 1869 to 1871. *The Missionary Echo* was issued at the beginning of the year, under the Editorship of Rev. Joseph Kinsop. A Committee was appointed to consider and suggest a scheme for giving additional religious and denominational instructions to the young, with the Rev. J. Harrison as Convener. Encouraging reports were furnished of the progress of the Institute Fund. Rev. A. Holliday intimated his intention to resign his position as Principal of the Theological Institute in 1895, and Rev. R. Chew was designated as his successor. Counsel's opinion *re* the Nomination and Election of Committees of a Connexional character was reported to the Assembly.

- 1895 Norwich ...Rev. W. R. Sunman...Rev. E. D. Cornish...Rev. J. C. Brewitt...Ald. W. H. Hart, Esq., J.P.
- An increase of 1936 members reported, the largest since 1888. The Assembly had to mourn the loss of five of its Ministers by death, two of whom had twice occupied the highest office in the Connexion—the Revs. R. Chew and M. T. Myers. Mr. Chew was Connexional Secretary in 1866, President in 1867 and 1881, and for thirty-five consecutive years was a member of the Connexional Committee. Mr. Myers was Corresponding Secretary in 1887 and 1888, Connexional Secretary in 1889, and President in 1890 and 1891. The esteemed Rev. John Adcock asked to be released from Circuit work. Mr. Adcock was Corresponding Secretary in 1868 and 1869, Connexional Secretary in 1872 and 1879, President in 1873, and General Missionary Secretary from 1881 to 1889. A Chew Memorial Fund was started.

Year.	Assembly Town.	President.	Connexional Secretary.	Corresponding Secretary.	Connexional Treasurer.
1896	Newcastle-on-Tyne...	Rev. G. Turner	...Rev. E. D. Cornish...	Rev. J. C. Brewitt...	Ald. W. H. Hart, Esq., J. P.
	The Churches in the New Zealand District, numbering 982 members, by arrangement with the Annual Assembly, became a part of the Methodist Church in New Zealand. Hence a decrease of twenty-nine members in the Connexion. Hymns of Light and Life" were published by the Book Room. The Rev. T. Sherwood was designated Principal of the Theological Institute from the Assembly of 1897. Mr. Duckworth undertook to raise £20,000 towards an Endowment Fund, and pay £3000, the cost of a new wing to the Institute, on condition that the deficiency on current account was met, and money subscribed for furnishing the Institute. Mr. G. Dingley, Gt. Yarmouth, gave £200 for a new Hospital at Weidlow. Mr. R. Ellis, J. P., Harrogate left free of duty £2000 to Ashville College, and £2000 to the Superintendence and Beneficent Fund. Mr. Ellis's death is a distinct loss to Free Methodism. He was deeply interested in its institutions, and munificently supported them.				
1897	Nottingham	Rev. R. Swallow, M.D....	Rev. E. D. Cornish...	Rev. J. C. Brewitt...	Ald. W. H. Hart, Esq., J. P.
	Numerical returns show an increase of 1324 members. Heavy loss of Ministers and Missionaries, seven having died. Amongst these was the Rev. A. Holliday, who was Connexional Secretary in 1873 and 1874, President in 1877, and Principal of the Theological Institute from 1882 to 1895. Another of the losses of the year was that of the Rev. T. H. Cardew, who had rendered such heroic service in connexion with our Missions, both in West and East Africa. With a Missionary President earnest efforts were resolved upon to increase the ordinary Missionary income to £15,000 per year. A series of resolutions was adopted with the view of restricting and guiding the recreations of the young. Proposals in favour of District nomination of the various Committees of a Connexional character were seriously considered, and decisively negatived. Resolutions relating to amusements and designed to bring them within narrower limits, and purify and enoble them, were adopted and ordered to be printed and sent to Circuits for all Sunday Schools. It was urged that the Programmes of Entertainments should be submitted to Ministers and Officers of the Church, Sunday School, or Bands of Hope.				
1898	Lincoln	...Rev. E. D. Cornish	...Rev. J. C. Brewitt	...Rev. Jabez King...	Ald. W. H. Hart, Esq., J. P.
	The public services of this first Lincoln Assembly were exceptionally well attended and effective, especially the great Missionary Meeting. Mission questions were to the fore throughout the sittings of the Assembly, as shown by the marked increase of Missionary income; the lamented deaths of the Superintendent of the Jamaica Mission, the Rev. E. Abercrombie, and the Rev. T. Halliwell, of Bocas del Toro; the massacre of the members of the native churches and Missionaries in the Meendi Country; the uncertainty as to the fate of the Rev. C. H. Goodman, and the relief brought by the cablegram "Goodman is safe"; the stirring address of the Missionary Ex-President in acknowledging the thanks of the Assembly; the gift of £250 for a Hospital in Ningpo by Mr. H. Blyth, Gt. Yarmouth, and a similar gift of £210 for a site of new Mission premises by the venerable Mr. M. Shadford, of Spalding; and last, but not the least touching, the scene brought to view by the picture called "Ready to Depart," consisting of a photograph of nine worthies on the eve of starting for a foreign field, including three who have already done yeoman service. The following are their names:—Revs. Dr. Swallow, J. Proudford, R. Woolfenden, F. Bavin, J. Ellis, A. J. Ellis, G. W. Sheppard, H. H. Wilson, and Miss Abercrombie. Five other deaths of Ministers were reported. Rev. S. Chester, Corresponding Secretary in 1876; Rev. T. Edwards; Revs. G. Robinson and E. Wright, two of the oldest ministers in the Connexion; and the Rev. G. Turner, Corresponding Secretary in 1886, Connexional Secretary in 1887 and 1888, General Missionary Secretary from 1889 to 1895, and President in 1896. The generous gift by Mr. Crossfield, J. P., of £1500 to two Chaplains in the Manchester 3rd Circuit was reported and gratefully acknowledged.				

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

These Committees are appointed immediately after the four Connexional Officers and Sub-Secretaries. They consider such Assembly questions as require careful and detailed attention, questions which do not come under the purvey of the Connexional or other Committees, and report to the Annual Assembly. Their work begins and ends with the sittings of the Assembly.

I.—STATIONING COMMITTEE.

The Stationing Committee consists of twenty-one Members, eight of whom are elected by and from the Connexional Committee, and thirteen others, one from each District. The election is by ballot. The business of the Committee is to make appointments of Ministers to Circuits, prepare and print the Stations, and submit the same to the Assembly on three different occasions. Discussion in the Assembly is deferred until the third and final reading.

II.—FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee consists of fifteen Members, the Connexional Treasurer, the General Missionary Secretary (Convener), and thirteen others, one from each District. Its business is to examine the state of the Connexional or Mission Fund, consider applications from Circuits, and recommendations of District Meetings for financial aid on behalf of Ministers' salaries; prepare a list of Prospective Grants for the ensuing year, and report, as directed, to the Assembly.

III.—COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE NUMERICAL AND SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE CONNEXION.

This Committee consists of thirteen Members, including the Convener. Its work is to examine the Numerical Returns, call on Representatives to explain any seemingly unsatisfactory features in their respective Circuit Schedules, and report to the Assembly at the time appointed.

IV.—MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

This Committee usually consists of five or six Members, including the Convener. Its business is to consider communications addressed to the Assembly on Educational, Social, Philanthropic, and other questions of public interest; prepare suitable answers to the same, and report.

V.—SCRUTINEERS.

This Committee usually consists of ten or twelve Members, including a Convener. Its work is to distribute, collect, examine, and report on all voting papers issued by the Annual Assembly, for the election of Committees.

VI.—ADDRESS TO THE CHURCHES.

The Committee to prepare this Address has, of late years, been a Committee of one; in olden times it consisted of two. The election is made by the Annual Assembly, on the motion of the Connexional Secretary. Since 1881, the Connexional Secretary of the preceding year has anticipated the action of the Assembly, and asked some brother to undertake the task, and supplied him with an advance copy of the Numerical Returns, and such other information as might be of use.

SUB-SECRETARIES.

Sub-Secretaries are appointed by the Annual Assembly, on the motion of the Connexional Secretary. It is usual for his motion to be adopted without challenge. This is only reasonable, seeing that as chief, he is responsible for their work. They act under his direction in drafting or copying resolutions, reading communications to the Assembly, writing letters, taking minutes of the proceedings of the Assembly, and entering them in the Minute-Book, preparing copy for the Printed Minutes, &c., &c. The character of their work may materially affect, for good or ill, the work of the principal. As a rule, however, the credit or discredit of their combined work is regarded as common property.

The following is a complete list of the names of the Sub-Secretaries, so far as they have appeared in the Printed Minutes:—

- 1836 Rev. J. Peters, 1.
 1837
 1838 Rev. J. S. Nightingale, 1; Mr. C. Arthur, 1.
 1839 Mr. John Kipling, 1.
 1840 Revs. H. Breeden, 1; M. Beswick, 1; Mr. J. Kipling, 2.
 1841 Rev. H. Breeden, 2; Mr. G. Turton, 1.
 1842 Revs. H. Breeden, 3; J. S. Nightingale, 2; Messrs. G. Turton, 2; W. Morcom, 1.
 1843 Revs. H. Breeden, 4; M. Beswick, 2; Messrs. G. Turton, 3; John Wright, 1.
 1844 Revs. H. Breeden, 5; M. Beswick, 3; J. Woolstenholme, 1; J. W. Gilchrist, 1.
 1845 Revs. H. Breeden, 6; M. Beswick, 4; Edward Wright, 1.
 1846 Revs. E. Darke, 1; J. W. Gilchrist, 2; E. Wright, 2.
 1847 Revs. E. Darke, 2; M. Beswick, 5; Mr. J. Wright, 2.
 1848 Revs. E. Darke, 3; T. Ellery, 1; Mr. G. Turton, 4.
 1849 Rev. E. Darke, 4; Mr. E. W. Buckley, 1.
 1850 Revs. E. Darke, 5; D. Rutherford, 1; Mr. J. Wright, 3.
 1851 Revs. E. Darke, 6; M. Beswick, 6.
 1852 Revs. E. Darke, 7; G. Smith, 1.
 1853 Revs. W. Reed, 1; E. Wright, 3; M. Beswick, 7.
 1854 Revs. G. Smith, 2; E. Wright, 4; S. S. Barton, 1.
 1855 Revs. G. Smith, 3; M. Beswick, 8.
 1856 Rev. G. Smith, 4; Mr. C. Arthur, 2.
 1857 Rev. T. A. Bayley, 1; Mr. J. Benson, 1.
 1858 Revs. T. A. Bayley, 2; R. Chew, 1; E. Wright, 5; Mr. J. Benson, 2.
 1859 Revs. W. Reed, 2; T. Hacking, 1; E. Wright, 6.
 1860 Revs. J. Colman, 1; M. Miller, 1; E. Pearson, 1; T. Newton, 1.
 1861 Revs. T. A. Bayley, 3; E. Boaden, 1; R. Bushell, 1; J. Kirsop, 1.
 1862 Revs. T. Hacking, 2; E. Pearson, 2; E. Boaden, 2; J. Kirsop, 2.
 1863 Revs. T. Hacking, 3; E. Boaden, 3; Messrs. J. Benson, 3; and J. H. Crosfield, 1.
 1864 Revs. R. Chew, 2; E. Pearson, 3; Messrs. J. Beads, 1; and J. Spray, 1.
 1865 Revs. R. Chew, 3; Edwin Wright, 1; Messrs. J. Harrison, 1; and J. Colam, 1.
 1866 Revs. J. Colman, 2; R. Bushell, 2; A. Hands, 1; Mr. J. Harrison, 2.
 1867 Revs. J. Mather, 1; S. Macfarlane, 1; J. Adcock, 1; Mr. J. Unwin, 1.
 1868 Revs. J. Mather, 2; J. Adcock, 2; M. T. Myers, 1; Mr. J. C. Yewdall, 1.
 1869 Revs. T. M. Booth, 1; W. Boyden, 1; A. Holliday, 1; Mr. R. Wells, 1.
 1870 Revs. A. Holliday, 2; S. Chester, 1; W. R. Sunman, 1; Mr. J. Harrison, 3.
 1871 Revs. W. Boyden, 2; T. B. Saul, 1; W. R. Sunman, 2; Mr. R. Reay, 1.
 1872 Revs. S. Chester, 2; W. R. Sunman, 3; W. O. Lilley, 1; Mr. J. Baron, 1.
 1873 Revs. W. Boyden, 3; T. B. Saul, 2; W. R. Sunman, 4; Messrs. J. T. Iles, 1; and W. Eyre, 1.

- 1874 Revs. S. Chester, 3; E. D. Green, 1; S. Wright, 1; Mr. W. E. Holt, 1.
- 1875 Revs. S. Chester, 4; E. D. Green, 2; J. S. Balmer, 1; Mr. J. Wilson, 1.
- 1876 Revs. S. Wright, 2; G. Hargreaves, 1; J. C. Brewitt, 1; Mr. R. Bird, 1.
- 1877 Revs. E. Askew, 1; T. B. Saul, 3; E. Tebb, 1; S. K. Hocking, 1; Mr. W. Lord, 1.
- 1878 Revs. E. Askew, 2; G. Hargreaves, 2; T. B. Saul, 4; E. J. Travis, 1; S. Wright, 3.
- 1879 Revs. E. Askew, 3; G. Hargreaves, 3; E. J. Travis, 2; G. Whaite, 1; Mr. D. Marshall, 1.
- 1880 Revs. E. J. Travis, 3; E. Tebb, 2; T. Sherwood, 1; H. T. Chapman, 1; Mr. C. W. Schofield, 1.
- 1881 Revs. E. Tebb, 3; T. Sherwood, 2; H. T. Chapman, 2; R. Brewin, 1; Mr. G. Chapman, 1.
- 1882 Revs. E. Tebb, 4; A. Crombie, 1; J. F. Barnard, 1; H. T. Chapman, 3; Mr. W. Eyre, 2.
- 1883 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 2; H. T. Chapman, 4; J. Truscott, 1; Jabez King, 1; Mr. G. Ibberson, 1.
- 1884 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 3; H. T. Chapman, 5; E. D. Cornish, 1; Jabez King, 2; Mr. G. Ibberson, 2.
- 1885 Revs. E. Tebb, 5; H. T. Chapman, 6; Jabez King, 3; J. F. Barnard, 4; Mr. J. Humphrey, 1.
- 1886 Revs. E. Tebb, 6; H. Holgate, 1; Jabez King, 4; J. F. Barnard, 5; Mr. J. C. Dixon, 1.
- 1887 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 6; R. Brewin, 2; H. T. Chapman, 7; Jabez King, 5; Mr. T. H. Fleming, 1.
- 1888 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 7; H. T. Chapman, 8; Jabez King, 6; W. H. C. Harris, 1; Mr. J. B. Swallow, 1.
- 1889 Revs. S. Wright, 4; E. D. Cornish, 2; J. F. Barnard, 8; Jabez King, 7; Mr. T. H. Fleming, 2.
- 1890 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 9; R. Brewin, 3; G. Lowndes, 1; James Roberts, 1; Mr. H. P. Vivian, 1.
- 1891 Revs. J. F. Barnard, 10; R. Brewin, 4; G. Lowndes, 2; Mr. C. W. Dawson, 1.
- 1892 Revs. G. Lowndes, 3; F. Lamb, 1; B. J. Tungate, 1; E. Hall, 1; Mr. H. J. Hart, 1.
- 1893 Revs. F. Lamb, 2; J. F. Lawis, 1; T. J. Dickinson, 1; B. J. Tungate, 2; Mr. S. Bayley, 1.
- 1894 Revs. F. Lamb, 3; G. Whaite, 2; B. J. Tungate, 3; W. C. Rank, 1; Mr. J. Godfrey, 1.
- 1895 Revs. G. Whaite, 3; F. Lamb, 4; B. J. Tungate, 4; W. C. Rank, 2; Mr. R. Mason, 1.
- 1896 Revs. G. Whaite, 4; W. Locke Smith, 1; W. C. Rank, 3; H. Hooks, 1; Mr. H. G. Whyatt, 1.
- 1897 Revs. G. Whaite, 5; B. J. Tungate, 5; W. C. Rank, 4; H. Hooks, 2; Mr. T. Townend, 1.
- 1898 Revs. G. Whaite, 6; W. L. Smith, 2; S. F. Waterhouse, 1; H. Mann, 1; Mr. Alfred J. Smith, 1.

STANDING ORDERS.

(A.) *Rules of Debate.*

I.—At the request of the President, all motions and amendments must be reduced to writing and signed by the mover.

II.—No brother shall be allowed to withdraw his motion or amendment without the consent of the Assembly.

III.—When the vote is taken on a motion or amendment, the negative as well as the affirmative shall be put.

IV.—Only one amendment shall be under discussion at the same time. When an amendment is adopted it shall take the place of the substantive motion, and its mover shall have the same right of reply as the mover of the original motion. When an amendment is disposed of, either by being adopted or rejected, other amendments of which notice had been given before the reply on the original motion, shall be brought forward, and dealt with on the same principle, in the order of notice.

V.—No brother shall make more than one speech on the same motion or amendment, except the brother who has the right of reply; but his replies to amendments must be his only speeches thereon, and must be confined strictly to answering objections; when given, the vote shall be taken.

VI.—No brother who has spoken on the subject before the House shall have the right to move or second the order of the day, or the previous question. When such motion is proposed and seconded, it must be put without speeches or discussion.

VII.—The President shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member of the Assembly.

VIII.—Any brother not satisfied with the declaration of the President respecting any vote taken, may call for a division of the House.

(B.) *Election of Connexional and other Officers.*

I.—The President, Connexional Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Connexional Treasurer, General Missionary Secretary, the Principal of the Theological Institute, the Editors

of the Magazines, the Book Steward, the Chapel Secretary, the Chapel Treasurer, and all other Secretaries and Treasurers of a Connexional character, appointed by the Annual Assembly, shall be elected by an absolute majority of the votes given by its members.

II.—If, when the vote has been taken, it be found that no brother has the required majority, the two brethren having the highest number of votes shall again be submitted to the Assembly. The brother then having the largest number of votes shall be declared by the President to be duly elected.

(C.) *Votes of Thanks.*

Votes of Thanks shall be accorded to various Officials and Committees, as follows, viz.:—one vote to the President, one to the other Connexional Officers and General Missionary Secretary combined, one to the Connexional Committee, one to the Foreign Missionary Committee, and one to the Committee and Officers of each other Institution or Fund.

(D.) *Communications on questions usually considered by Committees.*

Communications addressed to the Annual Assembly on questions usually considered by Committees shall, without being read to the Assembly, be forwarded to those Committees; but, if called for, they must be read when the reports to which they relate are presented.

(E.) *Minutes of the Connexional Committee.*

In lieu of reading the Minutes of the Connexional Committee in full to the Annual Assembly, the following method shall be adopted:—

I.—Appointments of ministers to Circuits made by the Committee shall be reported to the Assembly through the Stationing Committee.

II.—Proposed grants from the Connexional Fund in aid of Circuits shall be reported to the Annual Assembly through the Finance Committee.

III.—Proposed new legislation, when practicable, shall be printed and placed in the hands of the Members of the Annual Assembly.

IV.—Only Minutes of general interest, which are not thus reported on, shall be read in full to the Annual Assembly, unless others are called for.

(F.) *Minutes of the Missionary Committee.*

All Minutes of the Missionary Committee necessary to a full understanding of the state of our Missions, and their administration, shall be read to the Annual Assembly; but all entries of a merely formal or routine character, and Minutes of cases which are still *sub judice*, shall be omitted.

(G.) *Minutes of the Chapel and other Committees.*

Condensed Reports of the Chapel and Superannuation Committee, the Book Room, London Chapel Extension Fund and Temperance League Committees, the Governing bodies of the Theological Institute and Ashville College, Connexional Evangelism, Young People's Committee, and Bowron House shall be presented to the Annual Assembly; special prominence being given to those questions requiring the judgment of the Assembly. Such reports shall be prepared by the several Secretaries or other person or persons appointed, and, when practicable, approved by the respective Committees.

(H.) *Reports on Financial Questions.*

Statements of Income and Expenditure of the various Connexional Funds shall be printed and placed in the hands of the Members of the Annual Assembly, at an early stage of its sittings; and these shall, in the main, constitute the Reports of Committees on financial questions.

(I.) *Ministerial Character and Status.*

Matters relating to ministerial character and status shall, unless otherwise determined, be considered on the Friday after the opening of the Annual Assembly. Every effort shall be made by the Connexional Officers to minimise the work of the Assembly with closed doors.

The following questions shall be asked in lieu of the names of all the ministers being read to the Assembly:—

- I.—What ministers have died during the year?*
- II.—What ministers have withdrawn or ceased to be recognised?
- III.—What ministers, in Full Connexion or on probation, have had notice of charge or objection brought against them?
- IV.—What ministers desire now to become permanent or temporary supernumeraries?
- V.—What ministers are now to be received into Full Connexion?
- VI.—What ministers remain on probation?
- VII.—What brethren are now to be admitted on probation?
1. What brethren from the Theological Institute?
 2. What brethren who have served their provisional year?
- VIII.—What students remain in the Theological Institute?
- N.B.*—The Connexional Secretary shall prepare a list of the names to be submitted under the several questions to the Annual Assembly, and present them, unless otherwise determined, in alphabetical order. Memoirs and resolutions to be prepared beforehand, if possible, under the direction of the Connexional Officers.

(J.) *Voting Papers.*

- I.—As far as convenient, voting papers shall be distributed at the close of one Session and collected at the next, at such time as may have been determined by the Connexional Officers or Annual Assembly.
- II.—Voting papers for Committees shall be retained in the custody of the Connexional Secretary. Surplus copies to be provided, to enable the members of the Assembly to record the results of voting.

* Resolutions relating to supernumeraries and deceased ministers shall be previously prepared and read to the Assembly for its approval, and movers and seconders shall be appointed; but speeches and the adoption of the Resolutions shall be deferred, unless otherwise arranged, until the following day. The President, at his discretion, may call on any brother to support the Resolution, and give variety to the proceedings by introducing devotional exercises. When a minister dies, his colleague, or a Circuit officer, shall be expected to furnish the Connexional Secretary, as early as possible, with official information of the event.

(K.) *Circuits wishing to discontinue a Minister's Services.*

It is a full understanding, to be honourably observed, between the Circuits and the Annual Assembly, that when any Circuit has a minister appointed to it by the Annual Assembly, whether as Superintendent or otherwise, at the request of the Circuit, such Circuit shall not dispense with the services of a minister without giving a year's written notice to the Annual Assembly of its intention to do so, nor until the Annual Assembly shall consent thereto.

STANDING ORDER FOR COLLECTION OF CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

Earlier Closing of the Financial Year.

It was resolved, at the Annual Assembly of 1887, that after the Assembly of 1888, the Financial Year shall close on 30th April. The earnest attention of the Churches is called to this important resolution; and to carry it out Collections should be made and Subscriptions obtained for Connexional Funds *early* in the Connexional Year.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

DISTRICT Meetings were the direct and immediate outcome of amalgamation. This will be seen from the fact that the Annual Assembly of 1857 affirmed that, in its judgment, the establishment of District Meetings throughout the Connexion would be promotive of the interests of the amalgamated body, and referred it to a committee of twelve persons to consider in what manner District Meetings should be formed, and what their functions should be, and report to the Annual Assembly. The following brethren constituted that committee:—Revs. M. Baxter, J. Molineux, W. Patterson, J. Peters, W. Reed; Messrs. J. Benson, C. Cheetham, J. Chipchase, J. Cuthbertson, J. Green, J. Massingham, and W. Whiteley.

That committee, in due course, presented its report, and the Circuits were formed into Districts, and a District Meeting scheme was adopted, which was made to take effect immediately. Since that time, the functions of District Meetings have been steadily on the increase, and will continue to increase in proportion to the efficiency of the work done by them.

DISTRICT MEETING REGULATIONS.

As amended by Annual Assemblies of 1893, 1894, 1897, and 1898.

(1.) *District Meetings, When to be Held.*

Where practicable, District Meetings shall be held twice a year, viz.: in autumn and spring. The Autumnal Meeting shall be held in the month of October, and the Spring Meeting between 15th and 31st May. Within the limits thus specified, the meetings may be held as determined by the districts.

N.B.—At the Annual Assembly of 1893, a special dis-

pensation was granted, on account of local conditions, to the Lincoln District, by which that district is enabled to hold its Spring Meeting between the 9th and 31st days of May in each year.

(2.) *Members of District Meetings.*

District Meetings shall be composed of the following persons:—

- (1.) Representatives elected by the Circuit Quarterly Meetings on the following scale:—A Circuit with less than 200 members, one representative; 200 members (but under 500), two representatives; 500 members (but under 1000), three representatives; 1000 or more members, four representatives.
- (2.) The District Chairman, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Temperance League Secretary, and Temperance Treasurer, Young People's Secretary; and the following who may be resident in the District, viz.:—Supernumerary Ministers, Members of the Connexional, Missionary, and Chapel Committees, and such officials as by Connexional Regulations are eligible for election by any Circuit as representatives to the Annual Assembly. The Secretaries of the London Chapel Extension Fund and Bowron House, shall also be members of the London District Meeting. Home Mission Stations, which are not entitled to take part in the election of representatives of their own by a Circuit to a District Meeting, are allowed to elect a representative of their own, in accordance with the Connexional Regulations bearing on the election of representatives to District Meetings.

(3.) *Business of District Meetings.*

The business of District Meetings shall be to consider and report, as need be on the following and other questions of Connexional interest:—

- (1.) The Numerical and Spiritual state of the Circuits of the District.

(2.) Proposals for the division, union, or re-arrangement of Circuits in the District.

(3.) Circuit Abstract Reports concerning Collections and Subscriptions for Connexional Institutions and Funds.

(A.) Mission Fund.

(B.) Chapel Relief Fund.

(C.) Preachers' Children's Fund.

(D.) Superannuation and Beneficent Fund.

(E.) Theological Institute.

(F.) Temperance League.

(G.) London Chapel Extension Fund.

(H.) Other Connexional Institutions or Funds, the income of which is presented in District form in the Printed Minutes of the Annual Assembly.

(4.) Applications for aid from Connexional Funds.

(A.) Mission Fund.

(B.) Chapel Relief Fund.

(C.) Chapel Loan Fund.

(D.) Sunday School Fund.

(5.) Reports of the death of Connexional Ministers in the District, with suggestions to the Connexional Officers, for the preparation of Memoirs for insertion in the printed Minutes of the Annual Assembly.

(6.) Application of Candidates for the Connexional Ministry, whether for immediate entrance on the work or for admission into the Theological Institute.

N.B.—Candidates shall furnish the District Secretary with a Manuscript Sermon four weeks before the holding of the District Meeting, preach a trial Sermon, and undergo an Oral Examination before the District Meeting, or before such Committee as the District Meeting may, from time to time, appoint for that purpose. This Examination to be left to the District Meeting; but it is recommended that

stress be laid upon personal piety, educational attainments, soundness of health, ability to preach, and power to work; and that no candidate be allowed to pass, at this stage, unless the District Meeting be satisfied that he possess the above-named qualifications.

(7.) To aid Circuits, as far as may be mutually convenient, in the holding of Missionary and Evangelistic Services, and afford counsel in circumstances of difficulty.

(8.) To offer suggestions to the Connexional and other Committees, and to the Annual Assembly, on any questions affecting the welfare of the Churches.

(9.) To assist in carrying out Connexional Regulations in the District.

(10.) In harmony with the general principles and aims of the Connexion, to take up any questions tending to the spread of righteousness and godliness in the world.

(4.) *District Officers and their Functions.*

Each District shall have a Chairman, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Temperance League Secretary, and Temperance Treasurer if desired, and Young People's Secretary; their election shall take place at the May Meetings. The appointment to be for one year. The brethren appointed shall enter upon their duties at the close of the ensuing Annual Assembly. The names of the brethren to be sent to the Connexional Secretary for insertion in the Printed Minutes of the Annual Assembly. The places of Officers who may prove unable or unwilling to act shall be filled up by the Meeting held next after that at which the appointment was made. Assistant District Officers may be appointed as needful.

The functions of the District Officers to be as follows:—

(1) Chairman.

The Chairman shall take part with the Secretary and Financial Secretary in examining the Certificates

of the Representatives, and constituting the District Meetings; he shall preside over their deliberations, and conduct, when practicable, the Examination of Candidates for the Connexional Ministry.

(2) Secretary.

The Secretary shall convene the District Meetings; collect and tabulate the Numerical Returns, submit them to the Meeting, and forward them to the Connexional Secretary; and the General Secretary of the Young People's Committee respectively; take Minutes of proceedings, and make every reasonable endeavour to secure due attention to the same.

(3) Financial Secretary.

The Financial Secretary shall collect and tabulate all Financial and Chapel Schedules, lay them before the Meeting, and forward them to the Secretaries of the departments to which they respectively belong.

(4) Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive all money, and pay all expenses connected with the working of the District. His Accounts shall be audited yearly, and presented to the District Meeting.

(5) Temperance League Secretary.

The Temperance League Secretary shall collect and tabulate Temperance statistics, present them to the District Meeting, and forward them to the Connexional Temperance League Secretary, and shall perform such other duties as may be calculated to help on Temperance Work in the District.

(6) Temperance Treasurer.

The Temperance Treasurer, where one is appointed, shall receive all money, and pay all expenses connected with the District working of the Temperance League.

(5.) *Circuit and District Schedules.*

Circuit and District Numerical Schedules of Church Members and Members of the Temperance League, Schedules of Mission Fund, Chapels and Chapel Fund, Superannuation and Beneficent Fund, Theological Institute, and any other Institutions or Funds, the income of which appears in District form in the Printed Minutes of the Annual Assembly, shall be prepared by the Secretaries of the several Connexional departments to which they relate, and forwarded by them as follows:—

- (1.) *Circuit Schedules* to be sent in duplicate to Superintendent Ministers, who shall fill them up or cause them to be filled up, sign them in conjunction with the Circuit Steward or Circuit Secretary, and forward them to the District Officers, as directed in Section 5, Sub-sections (2), (3), and (4), within seven days after the close of the Connexional year—viz., by 7th May. One of the duplicate copies of the Balance-Sheet of the Mission Fund must be forwarded direct to the General Missionary Secretary.
- (2.) *District Schedules* to be sent in duplicate to the District Officers, as directed in Section 5, Sub-sections (2), (3), and (4), who shall fill them up from the Circuit Schedules, submit them to the District Meetings, and within seven days after the holding of these Meetings, forward them to the Secretaries of the departments to which they respectively belong, in proper form for insertion in the Printed Minutes of the Annual Assembly.

TABULAR

THE numerical state of each Circuit, as taken at the March Quarterly forwarded to the Connexional Secretary for the Annual Assembly. These is called the "Tabular View" of the Connexion, which is from year to

The following Table shows the numerical state of the entire Connexion,

	Itinerant Preachers.	Super- num- eraries.	Local Preachers.	Leaders.	Church Members.	On Trial.	Removals.	With- drawals.	
1837	...	...	...	...	21,275	...	...	...	1
1838	67	...	946	1560	26,521	1837	...	...	2
1839	90	...	999	1428	27,429	1222	632	...	3
1840	96	...	990	1480	27,384	1074	...	...	4
1841	99	...	1004	1404	26,591	801	994	...	5
1842	99	...	1024	1418	26,372	958	1278	...	6
1843	101	...	1020	1355	26,216	867	1686	...	7
1844	90	...	1034	1215	20,665	644	1329	...	8
1845	93	...	1055	1377	21,176	507	1328	...	9
1846	95	...	1077	1364	20,561	702	1443	...	10
1847	97	...	1010	1365	20,105	1111	1456	...	11
1848	96	...	986	1357	20,775	1308	2421	...	12
1849	96	...	1015	1413	21,564	1429	3185	...	13
1850	97	...	1007	1376	22,178	939	2008	...	14
1851	98	...	1083	1398	21,484	686	2997	...	15
1852	97	...	1061	1374	20,440	686	2436	...	16
1853	94	...	1074	1292	19,053	521	2668	...	17
1854	93	...	1017	1489	18,373	488	1946	...	18
1855	90	...	1022	1236	18,699	613	1856	...	19
1856	96	...	1064	1277	19,501	1261	1686	...	20
1857	110	...	1538	1866	39,986	2152	1895	...	21
1858	139	...	1739	2735	43,071	2697	2306	70	22
1859	163	...	2522	2995	50,133	3799	2728	149	23
1860	186	...	2585	3177	54,276	4094	3365	...	24
1861	210	...	2745	3545	56,828	4667	5195	...	25
1862	211	...	2871	3715	60,880	8229	4963	...	26
1863	224	11	2921	3832	63,674	5804	...	...	27
1864	254	13	3096	4029	64,331	5971	...	...	28
1865	269	15	3161	4061	65,689	6132	6011	...	29
1866	283	13	3281	4147	65,757	5409	6721	...	30
1867	288	11	3388	4420	67,488	6126	3715	2514	31
1868	296	11	3373	4368	68,241	7207	4163	3383	32
1869	297	15	3445	4407	68,062	5479	4019	4056	33
1870	303	16	3454	4400	68,167	6274	4799	3187	34
1871	315	19	3406	4370	67,639	5053	4257	3506	35
1872	318	21	3418	4347	66,907	5062	4329	3222	36

VIEW.

Meeting, is reported to the May District Meeting, and from thence returns, classified and arranged under their respective heads, form what year published in the Printed Minutes.

as reported annually, from 1837 to 1898 :—

	Deaths.	Increase.	Decrease.	Chapels.	Other Preaching Rooms.	Sunday Schools.	Sunday Scholars.	Sunday- School Teachers.
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	5,246	...	232	431	276	37,869	5,479
3	254	908	...	244	426	305	43,105	6,052
4	...	...	45	259	371	292	40,279	6,185
5	297	...	793	288	369	304	38,976	5,834
6	296	...	219	298	312	297	36,461	5,959
7	288	...	156	286	291	308	42,107	6,335
8	312	...	5551	296	271	357	41,820	5,853
9	306	511	...	312	251	317	41,489	6,169
10	292	...	615	313	248	320	41,026	6,569
11	385	...	456	316	215	328	41,550	6,391
12	358	670	...	322	209	330	42,032	6,162
13	348	789	...	324	211	333	44,692	7,018
14	469	614	...	316	197	306	44,553	7,102
15	325	...	694	333	200	340	44,882	7,419
16	395	...	1044	334	179	329	43,654	6,900
17	381	...	1387	335	164	319	43,950	7,094
18	309	...	680	321	159	294	40,328	6,503
19	362	326	...	334	156	315	42,791	6,851
20	302	802	...	243	154	336	44,966	7,074
21	291	20,485	...	769	...	323	67,025	10,025
22	552	3,085	...	705	408	710	90,473	13,129
23	558	7,062	...	825	422	787	97,961	14,942
24	746	4,143	...	902	425	860	105,951	15,962
25	...	2,552	...	937	407	785	114,706	17,251
26	...	4,052	...	965	394	946	122,320	19,041
27	...	2,794	...	1004	403	988	121,223	20,041
28	...	657	...	1065	415	1045	135,553	20,754
29	856	1,358	...	1193	428	1087	146,178	21,404
30	989	68	...	1140	403	1075	134,362	21,413
31	1128	1,731	...	1173	398	1121	139,862	21,864
32	975	753	...	1188	376	1167	146,910	23,180
33	1090	...	179	1228	333	1194	152,315	23,739
34	1100	105	...	1249	309	1193	154,180	24,104
35	1082	...	528	1272	278	1203	157,725	24,051
36	1118	...	732	1289	264	1222	158,005	24,064

TABULAR

	Itinerant Preachers.	Super- num- eraries	Local Preachers.	Leaders.	Church Members.	On Trial.	Removals.	With- drawals.	
1873	329	24	3374	4309	66,566	4861	3862	3150	37
1874	334	24	3361	4312	67,371	6195	3969	2936	38
1875	338	26	3428	4293	68,652	6193	3800	2819	39
1876	350	25	3435	4341	71,317	8937	3798	3208	40
1877	374	31	3501	4439	72,997	6984	4342	3490	41
1878	383	33	3459	4379	72,714	6727	4287	3526	42
1879	396	33	3461	4330	72,309	6350	4444	3349	43
1880	391	35	3391	4249	72,044	7433	4294	3395	44
1881	392	40	3403	4196	72,839	7824	4088	3432	45
1882	392	40	3385	4186	74,142	9905	4050	3405	46
1883	391	40	3417	4128	75,577	8575	4330	3952	47
1884	373	42	3330	4063	75,841	8628	4204	3998	48
1885	382	37	3312	4078	76,385	8268	3740	3616	49
1886	380	41	3268	4077	76,500	7549	3615	3646	50
1887	383	36	3313	4056	76,611	8324	3842	3165	51
1888	374	36	3346	4014	76,786	8473	3723	3400	52
1889	370	39	3356	3908	77,343	8116	4200	3109	53
1890	377	40	3341	3889	77,845	7616	4182	3047	54
1891	378	43	3333	3801	77,710	8134	3903	3012	55
1892	379	42	3291	3741	78,152	8653	3651	2831	56
1893	378	45	3337	3799	78,386	9604	3533	3077	57
1894	380	48	3350	3747	78,913	9136	3077	2884	58
1895	390	45	3391	3778	80,149	9304	3272	2787	59
*1896	376	41	3448	3718	80,120	9498	3089	2781	60
1897	388	40	3434	3694	81,444	9813	3244	2729	61
1898	397	41	3409	3690	82,307	9116	3405	2513	62

* The New Zealand District, numbering 982 church members,

VIEW—continued.

	Deaths.	Increase.	Decrease.	Chapels.	Other Preaching Rooms.	Sunday Schools.	Sunday Scholars.	Sunday- School Teachers.
37	1151	...	341	1303	277	1218	160,037	24,152
38	1070	805	...	1311	262	1230	165,528	24,617
39	1210	1,281	...	1309	249	1233	170,718	25,281
40	1151	2,665	...	1316	232	1277	176,592	26,003
41	1183	1,680	...	1331	208	1305	183,364	26,205
42	1131	...	283	1351	199	1329	186,061	26,435
43	1288	...	405	1358	205	1352	189,440	26,873
44	1143	265	...	1356	199	1345	189,038	26,919
45	1151	795	...	1355	203	1354	190,957	27,154
46	1115	1,303	...	1354	209	1354	194,382	26,892
47	1228	1,435	...	1357	203	1352	195,681	26,851
48	1170	264	...	1350	184	1350	196,509	26,631
49	1257	544	...	1353	195	1353	196,706	26,934
50	1280	115	...	1358	222	1361	198,196	26,664
51	1227	111	...	1359	215	1357	200,706	26,612
52	1229	175	...	1371	207	1358	203,425	26,796
53	1144	557	...	1387	201	1366	203,883	26,707
54	1298	502	...	1387	221	1367	203,054	26,689
55	1335	...	135	1399	235	1374	203,333	26,514
56	1403	442	...	1399	225	1389	206,039	26,598
57	1176	234	...	1411	205	1389	206,132	26,178
58	1319	425	...	1409	216	1364	205,148	25,647
59	1218	1,236	...	1401	246	1376	206,773	25,800
60	1185	...	29	1379	243	1350	203,712	25,296
61	1207	1,324	...	1386	244	1361	202,436	25,404
62	1215	863	...	1386	194	1361	201,467	25,051

became a part of the Methodist Church in New Zealand.

A FIFTH-YEAR TABLE OF DISTRICTS,

Showing the Rate of Numerical Increase or otherwise from 1868 to 1898.

Year.	Birmingham.	Bristol.	Cornwall.	Leeds and Bradford.	Lincoln.	Liverpool and North Wales.	London.	Manchester.	Newcastle.	Norwich.	Nottingham.	Rochdale.	Sheffield.	Australia.	China.	East Africa.	Jamaica.	New Zealand.	West Africa.	Totals.
1868	1478	4810	5572	9187	5487	2055	5143	5179	6948	3216	4944	5458	3121	599	20	2	1848	80	2558	68241
1878	1315	4482	5004	9413	4923	3381	4435	5078	5985	3032	4556	5616	3458	953	109	17	1962	291	2556	66566
1878	1126	4577	5385	10776	4967	3826	4641	5779	6833	3011	5611	5559	3523	1082	143	24	2389	655	2807	72714
1883	*1927	4994	5377	11307	4956	3544	5027	5870	7084	2851	*5059	5703	3829	1387	251	154	2640	813	2804	75577
1888	2152	5016	5080	10977	4809	3346	4869	6134	7484	3126	4745	5452	3929	2347	329	209	3403	900	2729	76786
1893	2307	4915	5225	10464	4181	3385	5666	6875	7581	2949	4750	5681	3986	2348	780	225	3445	912	2761	78386
1898	2353	5441	5364	+10775	+4024	3711	6165	+7777	7580	2908	5088	+5399	4070	2501	1773	504	3508	...	2866	82307

* 904 Members transferred in 1883 from the Nottingham to the Birmingham District.
 + 55 Members transferred in 1894 from the Lincoln to the Leeds and Bradford District.
 + 31 Members transferred in 1896 from the Rochdale to the Manchester District.

DISTRICT TABULAR VIEW FOR 1898, Showing the Numerical Strength of the United Methodist Free Churches in different parts of the World.

HOME DISTRICTS.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	Itinerant Preachers	Superintendents	Local Preachers	Leaders	Church Members	On Trial	Jr. Ch. Members	Chapels	Other Preaching Rooms	Sunday Schools	Sunday Scholars	Sunday School Teachers
1. Birmingham	14	2	109	89	2353	215	30	46	2	44	7174	771
2. Bristol	23	9	235	211	5441	539	127	94	6	93	14687	1440
3. Cornwall	21	1	347	321	5364	624	185	136	4	125	11415	2415
4. Leeds and Bradford	49	2	285	482	10775	1220	430	130	7	130	27598	3960
5. Lincoln	18	1	261	271	4024	321	180	112	9	94	7999	1170
6. Liverpool and N. Wales	18	2	238	207	3711	318	187	79	3	82	11001	1225
7. London	36	3	159	155	6165	161	72	79	1	80	13580	1301
8. Manchester	45	7	242	297	7777	787	259	103	...	102	22782	2585
9. Newcastle-on-Tyne	36	2	370	330	7580	686	460	144	17	150	19871	2440
10. Norwich	16	2	205	125	2908	160	69	91	4	83	7964	956
11. Nottingham	19	4	268	227	5038	422	438	106	5	102	14914	1796
12. Rochdale	28	3	138	238	5899	367	122	67	2	69	19845	2458
13. Sheffield	18	...	163	174	4070	511	41	62	2	64	12654	1601
TOTALS	341	38	3020	3127	71155	6331	2600	1249	62	1218	191484	24118

FOREIGN DISTRICTS.

1. China : Ningpo and Wenchow	5	...	104	...	1773	758	19	7	80	7	153	10
2. East Africa : Ribé	2	...	5	...	483	304	...	5	2	4	254	13
3. East Africa : Tana	2	...	2	...	21	18	...	2	...	4	89	4
4. West Africa	9	...	103	169	2866	1364	...	21	...	14	1537	112
5. Jamaica	10	...	76	303	3508	258	316	32	12	41	2730	257
6. Australia : Victoria and Tasmania	22	3	72	69	2017	65	...	54	35	58	3562	399
7. Australia : New S. Wales and Queensland	6	...	27	22	484	18	...	16	3	15	1658	138
TOTALS	56	3	389	563	11152	2785	335	137	132	*143	*9983	*933
Home Districts, 1898	341	38	3020	3127	71155	6331	2600	1249	62	1218	191484	24118
For'n Districts, 1898	56	3	389	563	11152	2785	335	137	132	143	9983	933
TOTALS IN 1898	397	41	3409	3690	82307	9116	2935	1386	194	1361	201467	25051

* These numbers include Day-Schools, Scholars, and Teachers.