

From

REV. J. HUDSTON,

8, ST. DOMINGO GROVE,

BRECKFIELD ROAD NORTH,

LIVERPOOL.

To

Rev. J. Paris D.D.

April 16/78

My dear Sir,

Your favour of March 15 with Minutes of Convention should have been acknowledged by return had I been at home. On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. I mailed you copies of our Conference Minutes and General Rules from which you will gain most of the information respecting us you desire. If you seek further information I shall be glad to supply it - On page 30 of the Minutes you will find res<sup>s</sup> referring to the Theological Committee - Each Minister during the time of his probation supplies this Com: with a sermon annually on the merits of which a report is presented to Conference. The Com: also conducts a written examination on various subjects yearly, but the books are changed from time to time -

The Methodist New Connexion was founded in 1797 by a secession from the parent body on the question of Lay Representation in Conference



No distinctive doctrine or usage of Methodism was discarded by us but for our advocacy of the right of lay members of the Church to share in its government - we for a long time suffered obloquy at the hands of the brethren from whom we separated - But wisdom is justified of her children, and we have lived to see the principle of lay representation adopted by the parent conference - Some think this will ultimately lead to our re-union; and possibly it may - There would have been greater probability of it leading to this result had the principle been adopted fully by the Wesleyans. They reserve, however, from the interference of laymen what they call Pastoral rights - that is, admission into the ministry, appointment to ministerial labour, supervision of ministerial character and the exercise of discipline on ministers is all reserved to a conference composed solely of ministers - as is also the management of the Book Concern - This distinction is unknown with us - Ministers and laymen always sit unitedly and as you will see by reference to page 43 of our General Rules the Stationing Committee - or the Commune which gives ministers their appointments to the circuits - consists of both preachers and laymen -

The literature of our connection is not



very great in bulk - Our chief author  
has been the Rev William Cooke D.D, whose  
works have had a large sale, and some of  
them are of high excellence - I may instance  
especially his "Christian Theology"; "Diligence";  
"The Resurrection"; "Unity, Harmony, and  
Growing Evidence of Sacred Truth"; and  
"Discrepancies Illustrated of Sacred Truths"

Our Wesleyan friends have produced  
many excellent books - But with these  
you will probably have some acquaintance  
"A Compendium of Theology," now in course  
of publication, by their President Dr. Pope  
I regard as, in its line, one of the finest  
works of the day - Their Book Room some  
years ago published a History of Wesleyan  
Methodism by Dr Smith, but the history  
was read amongst us it that by  
Dr Abel Stevens of America - The Wesleyans  
are issuing a new edition of it - at this  
time

The conferences of the leading  
Methodist bodies in this country  
will be held this year as follows  
Wesleyan Methodist at Bradford,



Yorkshire, commencing July 23<sup>d</sup>

The president for the current year is  
the Rev W B Pope DD. His address is  
Didsbury near Manchester -

Methodist-New Connexion at  
Ashton under Lyne, near Manchester  
commencing June 10<sup>th</sup> - President  
for the current year the Rev J  
Medcraft, 20 Clipstone Avenue,  
Nottingham

Primitive Methodist at  
Manchester, commencing June 19<sup>th</sup>  
President for the current year the  
Rev J Smith, Elmfield, York

Methodist-Free Church at  
Manchester, commencing July 31<sup>st</sup>

President for the current year  
Rev Anthony Holliday, Huddersfield  
Yorkshire

If you require any other information  
I shall have pleasure in supplying it -  
Please address to me as at the head of  
this sheet - I shall get by this a letter two days  
hence - Yours in Christian affection J Huddston