

## EDITORIAL.

## OUR EDUCATIONAL SCHEME.

THE Educational interests of the Methodist Church are among her most important interests. Upon them the efficiency and success of her future operations largely depend. The age is pre-eminently an intellectual age, a critical age, a fastidious age. The world stands, saying like Pilate, "What is truth?" or like an older than he, saying, "Who will show us any good?" Beneath the skeptical spirit of the age is one of religious inquiry. The press never teemed with religious and theological literature as it does to-day. Religion is leavening literature as it never did before. Religious questions are discussed in popular novels, in current poetry, in the daily secular press; and religious intelligence is flashed beneath the sea, from continent to continent. Even an avowedly rationalistic writer, Professor Draper, who, we are sorry to say, is the son of an English Wesleyan preacher, but who seems to have become alienated from the religion of his fathers and the land of his nativity, in his recent work on the "Conflict between Religion and Science," says: "We have come to the brink of a great intellectual change. Much of the frivolous reading of the present will be supplanted by a thoughtful and austere literature, vivified by endangered interests, and made fervid by intellectual passion."

While dissenting from very much which Professor Draper affirms, we agree with him that the paramount questions of the age are religious questions. The Church must gird herself up to the task of answering these. It is her great work to feed this soul-hunger of mankind, by breaking to men the bread of life. The Church cannot afford to neglect this intellectual quickening of the times. Never did she require men of broader and more