



worst architectural monstrosities ever perpetrated. Right under the shadow of the venerable Abbey was a vulgar variety theatre, which Za-zel was fired from a cannon, and reckless acrobats made their leap for life. For centuries Westminster Abbey was a sanctuary for all the rascaldom of the city. Defaulting debtors and worse criminals fled for protection to its precincts, where they might defy the ordinary process of law. In course of time it became an Alsatia, the haunt of Bohemianism and villany, and this left its traces in the network of narrow streets near the Abbey, amid which, appropriately enough, was the Millbank Prison. The prison has given place to the splendid Tait Art Gallery, and the new Methodist Church House will be an excellent substitute for that disreputable haunt, the Royal Aquarium. The London press is loud in its congratulations, but sometimes tinged with a spice of jealousy at the "check" of these Methodists who have the audacity to pre-empt the best site in Europe for the headquarters of Dissent. The site is reported to have cost £330,000, more than a million and a half of dollars, but in a short time a part of it may be sold for more than the price paid for the whole.

THE BEET CASE.

The settlement of the Beet case has called forth a good deal of comment and criticism in the religious, and even secular, press—much of it condemnatory of the procedure. The Methodist Times expresses the judgment which we think will commend itself to most Methodists as follows:

"The practically unanimous statement of the Conference that on so sad and mysterious a subject as the future lot of the lost there must be a reasonable toleration of different shades of opinion, and the reappointment of Dr. Beet by a decisive majority to the chair of theology in Richmond, have secured to Methodists the right of reverent inquiry, unprejudiced research, and devout investigation, without which no church can live. We believe that if the decision had gone the other way endless and irreparable mischief would have been done, however estimable had been the motives of those who unconsciously pleaded for intolerance and the forcible suppression of thought. The wisdom of Conference was never more conspicuously shown than in its cautious, generous, and conciliating settlement of the Beet case."

A FORWARD MOVEMENT IN TORONTO.

The Methodist Social Union, of Toronto, is developing new strength and usefulness along eminently practical lines. It has been greatly helpful in relieving embarrassed churches by substantial payments to their debts, and in promoting social co-operation. It is expending for the present year \$4,000 for the following purposes: In aid of Crawford Street Church, \$2,700; in aid of King Street Church, \$400; for hospital chaplaincy, \$624; for sundries, \$276.

ANGELICAN GENERAL SYNOD.

This Synod, which convenes once in six years, met in Montreal on Wednesday, September 3rd. The scene as the clergy walked from the Synod Hall to Christ Church Cathedral was singularly picturesque. The white surplices and coloured hoods, and the imposing array of the bishops, headed by the venerable Archbishop Bond, in his eighty-seventh year, a man revered and beloved in all the Churches, made a pageant of almost mediæval splendour. The Synod meets in two sections, the Upper House, or convocation of bishops, and the Lower House, the assembly of clerical and lay members. The most important business transacted was the organization of a new missionary society, which shall represent the entire Church in Canada, to take the place of the mission board controlled by the Provincial Synod. This will give