

Current Topics.

GROWTH OF METHODISM IN CANADIAN CITIES.

The growth of Methodism in the great cities is a very important factor in its general prosperity. The cities are centres of influence and power. They are in large degree the strategic points in the country. The religious denomination which most largely holds the cities will largely hold the country. Methodism, in Canada, has been far more successful in holding these strategic positions than in either Great Britain or the United States. During the last few years English Methodism has been putting forth strenuous efforts to obtain a better footing in London and the provincial towns, and now the "Forward Movement" is making most successful aggressive efforts in this direction.

In the United States, in many of the cities of the west and south, Methodism holds a very commanding position; but in the cities of the east, especially in New York, its condition is not at all comparable with that throughout the country. But few cities in the world compare with Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, St. John and Halifax, for the number and excellence and religious earnestness of its Methodist Churches. Montreal now possesses the noblest Methodist Church in the world. In Toronto the growth of Methodism has more than kept pace with the phenomenal growth of the city. The new Sherbourne Street Church, McCaul Street, Carlton Street, Bathurst Street, Dundas Street, St. Paul's, Trinity, and Spadina Avenue, Churches, all recently enlarged or opened or now approaching com-



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, TORONTO.

pletion, and others already projected, are evidences of great material prosperity. If this were *all* it would be no ground of just congratulation. But such church-building activity is an evidence also of large Christian liberality, of faith in God, and of earnest endeavours to mould the future of this land on a lofty Christian model. Methodism has long been noted for its practical ubiquity through this Dominion. Go where you will through its length and breadth, you will scarcely find a hamlet, except in the French districts of Quebec and the Gaelic-speaking portions of Cape Breton, without its Methodist church. These hundreds of humble sanctuaries will always be the stronghold of Methodism in the land; but it is well also in the centres of wealth of trade and commerce, of the political and intellectual life of the nation, where