

There is one section of the Methodist Church which for many years has dwelt comparatively isolated from the other portions of the great family ; we mean "the Methodist Episcopal Church South." Ever since the year 1844 it has moved in its own orbit, and we believe that less is known of its operations than is probably known respecting any other section of the Methodist Church. Various reasons, no doubt, could be assigned for this. The civil war produced fearful desolations. The country, especially in the South, was paralysed, and but for the wonderful recuperative power which it possessed, the Church could not have survived the fearful throes through which it had to pass. The sufferings endured by our brethren must have been painful in the extreme. Truly they sowed in tears.

Of late years poverty and distress have, in a great measure, passed away. Facilities for travelling have increased. There has been much interchange of views and feelings between the North and the South. International camp-meetings have been held, in which ministers of all sections of John Wesley's great family have taken part, and they have been charmed with the family traits that have there been exhibited ; the strong have been disposed to help the weak, tears have been shed over the past, and hopes have sprung up respecting the future. The outlook is more pleasant, and our prayer is that no storms may arise to disturb the fair horizon.

In the midst of this quietude our brethren in the South are becoming better known. Shortly before Dr. Punshon returned to England, he made a tour in the South, where he met with the venerable Dr. Pierce, the senior Bishop of the Church South, and is reported to have said to that octogenarian, that he would be glad to welcome representatives of his Church in England. We all remember how the members of our General Conference welcomed the genial Dr. Sargent, who came from the South, though not in a representative capacity ; yet the Conference appointed Dr. Douglas and Judge Wilnot to convey its greetings to the next General Conference of the Southern Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the North sent a delegation to their southern brethren four years ago, and at the coming General Conference of that Church the chivalrous South will be represented by some of its noble sons.

The time is very opportune for the South to be studied. Some of us who have read the Life of Dr. Olin, and "Ten Years of Preacher Life" by Milburn, had some knowledge of what our southern brethren are ; but the little we knew made us desire to know them better. We have been accustomed for more than a year past to read the *Christian Advocate*, published at Nashville, Tenn., of which our noble countryman, Dr. Summers, is the editor, and no "advocate" is more prized by us than this organ of the southern Church. We were therefore prepared to welcome Dr. Redford's "Western Cavaliers" as a book with which we anticipated being much pleased. Nor were we disappointed, for we have been both convulsed with laughter and affected to tears. Dr. R., though a man of dollars and cents (he is the agent of the Publishing House)—and as such we suppose he is sometimes very hard upon delinquents—still possesses a genial heart. He published a memoir of Fred. Brennan, which had an extensive sale. He also some years ago sent forth the "History of the Organisation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South," neither of which we have seen, but they are highly commended.