

295 reported an aggregate decrease of 6,306.

Arrangements were made for reducing the debt on the Missionary Society, which now amounts to \$150,000. It is proposed to raise \$250,000 at once, nearly \$100,000 of which was promised at Conference.

The debate on the Book-Room was protracted and lively. The circulation of unauthorized hymn-books, of which there seems to be a plethora, hinders the sale of the connexional hymn-book. The profits were not equal to former years, as the total amount was only \$7,500, one-fifth of which was appropriated to the Home Missionary Society and the balance to the Superannuation Funds.

The extension of the pastoral term excited great interest. The number of invitations for a longer term was increasing every year. Two ministers were invited to remain a fifth year. It was ultimately agreed that there should be an extension under certain circumstances. A few were granted a lengthened term.

The number of candidates for the ministry greatly exceeds the demand. In seventeen years 768 men had been added to the home work, and in the foreign work 442 had been received in the same period. Circuits not able to provide houses for married ministers receive assistance from the Home Mission Fund. Last year \$7,700 were thus appropriated. This year only twenty-four candidates were received for the home work, and eighteen for the foreign work, forty-two in all, while there were ninety-four candidates, so that more than fifty were refused. Application for admission into the ministry was made from ministers of other denominations, but only one was accepted, Rev. A. Woolley, from Newfoundland.

A great deal of time was occupied respecting the central missions in connection with what is known as the "Forward Movement," which excites universal interest and is doing much for the extension of Methodism in the centres of population. At least ten thousand people attend the missions in Manchester alone, where there were only a few hundreds some years ago, and \$150,000 will soon be expended in the erection of new halls. At a meeting in aid of the London Mission Rev. P. Thompson said that his last week of work in East London was the happiest in his life. The joy of the mission and the miracles of grace he described in glowing words. The plan of work came through the gutter children. On a bitter winter night the children

had no shelter but the 240 public-houses. John Jameson began the work. There were now twenty thousand children in the East End who had been through the mission schools. He told of the municipal and social work, and of the open-air work."

Dr. H. J. Pope's report of his visit to Canada was very creditable to that gentleman. He was greatly pleased with his visit, and spoke in terms of commendation respecting our Church and the country. The Canadian representative, Rev. Dr. Dewart, was most cordially greeted, and delivered an elaborate address which was most favourably received. He gave the English Conference a knowledge of Canadian Methodism which could not but be gratifying to them.

Besides the representatives from New South Wales, France and Ireland, who spoke at the open session of Conference with Dr. Dewart, a lady from Austria, Baroness Langenau, was introduced and received a most hearty welcome. This distinguished lady has rendered eminent service to Methodism in her native land, and richly deserves the honour which she received. In her address she said, "What I have done I have done for Christ." Bishop Abraham and Professor Council, from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, were introduced at another session of the Conference. The Bishop interested the Conference with his speech. He said that he represented a branch of the Church which had half-a-million of members, 3,200 ordained preachers, 10,000 local preachers, and 375,000 Sunday scholars. "Eleven hundred of the preachers," said the bishop, "are under my direction, and I make the appointments myself"—a remark which greatly amused the Conference. Then came the startling statement, "Once I was a slave, and sold for \$6,000." He wound up a capital little address by saying "they thought that when they overtook the English people there would be no other people on God's earth to pass by."

The religious services were all more or less characterized by great fervour. The ordination of thirty-one young men who had finished their probation, the official sermons, the public examinations, recognition of returned missionaries, etc., were probably the most enthusiastic. The memorial session was deeply affecting; twenty-four ministers died in England, six in Ireland, and six in foreign stations.

Rev. James Chapman was appointed principal of Southlands College. Rev.