

MISSIONARY BOARD.

The meeting of the Missionary Board was attended this year with more than usual interest. It was feared that in consequence of the special pressure of the Twentieth Century Fund, the missionary givings of the Church might be reduced in volume. It is very gratifying to know that this is not the case, that, on the contrary, there is a substantial increase in the income from every source. The gross income has reached the very large amount of \$275,489.05, an increase of \$9,509.65 over that of the previous year. This is as it should be. The cause of missions is one whose only endowment is the faith and hope and love of the Methodist people. It is richer in these than if it had an endowment of a million dollars.

The Missionary Board sets before the Church the sum of three hundred thousand dollars as that at which it should aim. Large as has been the income, the needs are larger still. The sum of \$281,363 has been appropriated, and much more could be used to great advantage. The crisis in China will create extraordinary pressure upon the missionary resources of our Church. The least that we who stay at home can do is to support with our prayers and givings the heroism of those who go forth as our conscripts to the high places of the field.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION.

"On the last day of this month (October), says an English exchange, the Act of Union between the Free Church of Scotland and the United ('Untied,' as some one by an accidental misspelling truly called them), Presbyterians will be a *fait accompli*. The two streams of church life will thenceforth flow in one channel, a mighty river making glad the city of God. The name agreed upon by both parties is short and expressive, 'The United Free Church of Scotland.' It will consist of 1,710 churches, grouped into sixty-four Presbyteries, and again into eleven Synods. The largest Presbytery will be Glasgow, with 186 churches, the smallest, Islay, with four churches.

Following the confederation of the Australasian colonies will shortly come the union of the Methodist Churches.

At a meeting of the Methodist Federal Council of New South Wales, the result of the voting in the Primitive Methodist Church on the question of union submitted to it was reported. The result was 3,474 votes in favor of union, and 385 against it—eight to one for the union.

Only one circuit gave a majority against union. The Wesleyan Conference had already agreed to union in case the Primitive Methodist vote should show a substantial majority in favour of it. The Federal Council therefore directed the preparation of a basis of union, including the necessary details for giving it effect in accordance with the action of the General Conference.

It is said that what is one man's meat is another man's poison. The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, Ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference of Great Britain, has been to see the Oberammergau Passion Play, and records in three graphic articles in the *Methodist Times* his impressions of the spectacle. He has only words of highest commendation for what other spectators so strongly condemn. We suspect that a man sees in it what he brings. The devout and spiritual man will be religiously impressed. The critic will find food for criticism. We are indebted to the courtesy of the *Epworth Era* (Nashville), for the admirable cuts which illustrate our article on the Passion Play.

The week's evangelistic campaign, conducted under the auspices of the Toronto Epworth Leagues, in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, October 15th to 19th, struck the key-note of consecration. The thoughtful devotion to the religious, no less than the financial aspect of the Forward Movement, of such leading laymen as Mr. J. W. Flavelle, the brothers Massey, and many others, is one of the most hopeful auguries of the times.

THE REV. THOMAS BELL.

Too late for notice in our last issue occurred the death of the Rev. Thomas Bell, who passed away from labour to reward at his residence, Bedford, Quebec, August 24th, at the age of sixty-nine. For forty years our departed brother laboured in the vineyard of the Lord. The early part of his ministerial life was spent in central and western Ontario, at Cooksville, Barrie, Newmarket, Bolton, and elsewhere. After his transfer to the Montreal Conference his field of labour lay in Durham, Metis, West Farnham, and other circuits till his superannuation a few years ago. His health had recently been very much impaired, but he bore his sufferings with Christian patience and resignation. The memory of his life and labours is as ointment poured forth on his various circuits. He rests from his labours, and his works do follow him.