

PRIMITIVE METHODIST.

In eighty years this denomination has reported a decrease of members at twelve of its annual Conferences. To the surprise of everybody, the Conference of 1890 is of the number. Some of the districts report large increases, but these have been more than counterbalanced by heavy decreases in other parts of the Connexion. Several ministers will apply for a superannuated relation at the approaching Conference; some have travelled more than forty years.

The Superannuation Fund is in a perilous condition. Had it not been for the grant of \$4,500 received from the Book Room profits it would have been impossible to provide for the deficiency. To place the fund in a safe condition an additional amount of \$4,000 is required annually.

During the past ten years \$1,688,545 debt have been paid off the churches. It is estimated that the Connexion owns \$17,000,000 of church property.

Mrs. Shaw, of Gateshead, who died a short time ago, bequeathed \$5,000 to the Primitive Methodist churches in the locality.

The profits of the Book Room for the past year exceed \$20,000, being an advance of the former year.

We are glad to learn that John Cowan, Esq., has been appointed Justice of the Peace. He is the first Nonconformist in the city of Durham who has thus been honoured. The present writer knew him in boyhood.

The last General Mission Committee resolved to procure land for a college in Nanking, China. Noble men in Boston, Mass., intend to provide for the literary department, which they intend to call "Sleeper-Hall," in honour of Hon. Jacob Sleeper. Mrs. Philander Smith, of Oak Park, Ill., intends to erect another building which will be like that already built at the expense of the same lady in Tokyo, Japan.

Bishop Fowler, through whom the Chinese project was inaugurated, has also succeeded most marvellously in educational work in Nebraska, where the Lincoln College now rejoices in a fine paid-for building

worth \$100,000, a campus of forty acres, not far from the capitol building, and an endowment of \$100,000. There are in reserve 500 lots, which may presently yield \$750,000 or even more. A gentleman has recently died in Kansas city and left \$25,000 on condition that the 500 lots shall be preserved.

Bishop Hurst is actively engaged on behalf of a university at Washington. The Bishops at their late meeting resolved that at least \$2,000,000 and suitable buildings should be procured before the university is put in operation.

Methodism has lately made gigantic strides in Michigan. A Deaconess Home, located in the delightful "Cass Farm" region of the city of Detroit, has been formally dedicated. There are four resident deaconesses, with a number of visiting and nurse deaconesses.

At the recent Wyoming Conference Dr. Van Schvick, Presiding Elder, gave the following statistics in proof of the advance made in his district during the previous five years:

"There had been 9,777 conversions; paid for pastors, presiding elders, and bishops, \$224,198; paid superannuated preachers, \$9,249; for Missions, \$45,756; Woman's Foreign and Home Missions, \$6,545; Church Extension, Freedmen, Educational, Sunday-school Union, Tracts and Bible Society, \$12,731; other collections, \$11,777; Sunday-school expenses, \$28,171; current expenses, \$55,111; building and improving churches and parsonages, \$110,324; old indebtedness on churches and parsonages, \$59,621; furnishing district parsonages, \$392; Preacher's Aid Society, estimated \$9,000. Total, \$572,872.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

The General Conference met during the month of May in St. Louis, which was the eleventh quadrennial gathering of the Church. One of the General Superintendents, Bishop McTyiere, had died since the last General Conference. The Board of Bishops recommended that one