

RELIGIOUS AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, M.A.

WESLEYAN METHODISTS.

The Rev. Robert Newton Young, and Sylvester Whitehead, delegation from the British Conference to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Philadelphia, landed in America as these notes were being prepared for the press. Mr. Young is secretary of the Conference, and occupies the position of Classical Tutor in the Theological Institution at Birmingham. Mr. Whitehead was formerly a missionary in China.

A few years ago the English Conference set apart a few ministers to labour as evangelists, and last year the number was increased. The Rev. H. P. Hughes has been especially distinguished. At Swansea he commenced a "Five Days' Mission," which was marvellously successful. Two or three services were held daily, one of which was a Bible-reading—this is a specialty with Mr. Hughes, and God honours His own word. At Glasgow more than 400 gave in their names as "inquirers" during the season of special services.

Methodism seems to take kindly to French soil. The French Methodist Conference was recently held at Dieu-le-Fit, Drome, when a most encouraging state of affairs was reported. The denomination now owns 38 chapels, 8 ministers' houses, and 6 school-premises, worth about \$165,000. There are 134 other preaching stations, 29 ministers, 11 evangelists and teachers, 100 local preachers, 117 class-leaders, and about 2,000 members.

The Wesleyan Conference, in New Zealand, had an animating debate on Methodist Union, which closed by a vote of 38 yeas and 9 nays.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Spring Conferences have mostly been held. Several of them have discussed the question of extension of the ministerial term. It is evident that there is a strong feeling in favour of increasing the term of ministers' appointments, but we would not infer that there is a majority in favour of such change. By the time these notes are in the hands of our readers the question will have been set at rest in one way or other. Dr. Dorchester, who is so distinguished for gathering religious statistics, recently delivered an address in which he stated that, "notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties that Methodism had encountered in New England, while since 1850 the Congregationalists and Baptists have grown less than the population, it had grown more than that has, and now numbered 133,881 communicants, 1,095 churches, and 619 parsonages, worth \$9,779,593."

The New York *Advocate* states that Methodism in that city has made more progress during the past four years than in any corresponding period since 1850. During the past year four new churches have been built and paid for, costing nearly half a million of dollars. It has also increased its gifts to all the institutions of the Church. Since Brooklyn was incorporated, fifty years ago, the number of Methodist churches has increased from three to thirty-seven, worth \$1,500,000. During the last four years the Book Concern has paid \$244,000 of its bonded debt and only \$190,000 is still out-standing.

The General Conference is now in session at Philadelphia.