

LORD LORNE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

BY W. KIRBY, ESQ.

WHAT went ye to the wilderness to see?
 A shaking reed? Men in kings' houses dwelling?
 A prophet? Yea! more than a prophet, telling
 Of lands new-named for Christ—a gift in fee
 And heritage of millions yet to be—
 Green prairies like an ocean broadly swelling
 From rise to set of sun—great rivers spelling
 Their rugged names in Blackfoot and in Cree.
 That went we forth to see, and saw 't lie,
 That glorious land, reserved by God till now
 For England's help in need to drive the plough
 A thousand leagues on end, till in the sky
 The snowy mountains from the vales upborne
 Bear on their proudest peak the name of Lorne.

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

THE OECUMENICAL.—WHAT HAS IT DONE?

The N. Y. *Observer* praises the Methodist Council in London for "expending most of its time and strength in discussing practical questions having a direct bearing upon the advancement of the kingdom, of God in the earth;" and adds: "This is the secret of this wonderful push and progress which mark the denomination whose history has no parallel for rapid development and religious triumph in the annals of Christendom."

This should be a sufficient answer to the croakers who complained that the Conference broke up without formulating a creed or discussing great theological questions. Its theology is sufficiently formulated already; and whatever differences of policy they may have, the Methodists throughout the world, thank God, in doctrine are all one.

On this subject the Rev. Wm.

Arthur said: "People think that nothing particularly practical is being done in this Conference. They are only in the engine house, where there is not a spool being spun and not a web being woven and not a tissue being dyed. There is nothing being done but generating power, and therefore they say that nothing practical is being done. Sir, below the sky the two most practical things are human thought and human feeling, and what you have been doing here is making large thoughts and holy feelings. Here the large man is becoming larger and the small man is becoming less small, and here the broad man is becoming broader and the narrow man less narrow. Here the lonely and isolated preacher is somehow or other being unconsciously attracted to others, and feeling that they are more like him than he thought they could be. That is a practical thing. And what will come out of it? I can-