

Conference of last September gave prolonged and earnest attention mainly to two subjects: the union of Methodism and higher education. The union enterprise is working on toward completion, and in forming a "Basis of Union" the large joint Committee unanimously determined to adhere to the past educational policy of Methodism. At the last General Conference our Educational Society was placed upon an improved footing, and steps were taken to arouse the whole Church to increased interest and liberality. The plans of the Conference have been energetically followed out by the General President and others, and thus far with most encouraging success.

This Educational Society, having important relations to our Universities and Theological Schools, has also, through those institutions, the most vital relations to the general progress and power of Methodism. It has vital relations to our Sunday-schools, for these Sunday-schools require teachers, periodicals, and libraries, in fact a great body of Christian literature and Christian workers. These various helps and appliances must be supplied by the Church, and will be supplied very largely through the guidance and productive power of our higher seminaries of learning. The Educational Society has, of course, vital relations to the pulpit, both in the ordinary and in the missionary work. It has important relations to the homes of our people, for these homes will take on a higher character when father and mother have been made to feel, in their earlier days, the benefits of Christian culture.

We should not indulge in narrow, one-sided views of the office and sphere of the Christian Church. The Church of Christ, in the future as in the past, must stand in the centre of all the great intellectual and social forces of the world; working upon the spirit of the age, working through the spirit of the age, wrought upon by the spirit of the age. She must leaven and modify all things secular, or be leavened and modified by them. Her history thus far has generally been an example of both the one and the other. But the struggle for the mastery was never before what it is today. New and tremendous forces have come into play. The power of the press, the free, rapid interchange of ideas over the whole earth, some new theories in science, a blind, bewildered sense of suffering among the poor, the power of strong combination among operatives against the real or supposed oppression of the