

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, D.D.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The General Superintendent went to British Columbia and spent a few weeks at Port Simpson and other Indian missions, where he greatly encouraged the hearts of the missionary staff and acquired some valuable information respecting those missions which he will use to good purpose in days to come. Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Missionary Secretary, and Rev. Dr. Griffin, Treasurer of Superannuation Fund, were both there, and took a hearty interest in all deliberations. Their visit and services were greatly appreciated.

Dr. Carman was in time for the opening of the Manitoba and Northwest Conference, which met at Winnipeg. Dr. Carman presided at the ministerial Conference and expressed his satisfaction and joy in meeting his brethren, saying that he was glad for reasons fraternal, social, denominational, ecclesiastical and cosmopolitan. He gave glory to God that through their labours there had been great expansion of the work as compared with the times of his earlier visits.

At the mixed Conference he spoke at greater length on the great issues in Church and State. He spoke of the services which he had held among the Indians at Port Simpson, which he described as earnest and decorous, with as clear relations of Christian experience as he had heard in any meetings he had attended for years. He said he had also come from the east, where there had been some little division, as in the Montreal Conference and the Bay of Quinte Conference, where methods had been in use which were in many regards extravagant. Dr. Carman went on to say that he had never experienced such satisfaction in visiting the Conferences as he had this time.

Dr. Carman preached the ordination sermon, when five young men were received into full connection with the Conference, three of whom had been previously ordained. Early after the Sabbath he travelled eastward, and reached Toronto in time for the opening of the Conference, which assembled in Trinity church. His address at the open-

ing was thrilling and elaborate. A most hearty vote of thanks was tendered the Doctor, and he was requested to convey the greetings of the Conference to the brethren in the Maritime Conferences, whither he intended to proceed in a few days.

Presidents and Secretaries.—Toronto—Revs. A. Langford and L. W. Hill, B.A. London—Revs. G. Jackson and C. Smith. Hamilton—Revs. J. VanWyck, B.A., and F. Nugent. Bay of Quinte—Revs. T. M. Campbell and W. J. Young. Montreal—Revs. J. T. Pitcher and A. L. Holmes. Manitoba and Northwest—Revs. G. W. Dean and T. C. Buchanan. British Columbia—Revs. C. Ladner and J. P. Bowell.

Our space only permits us to give a brief summary of the business transacted at each.

MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST CONFERENCE.

The school question, as might be expected, came up for discussion, but the Conference was almost unanimous in its condemnation of coercion in enforcing the proposed bill of the Government. As this is substantially true respecting the action of all the other Conferences, no further reference will be made to the Manitoba School question.

The Conference missionary meeting was addressed by Miss Lynch, corresponding secretary of the Woman's branch, and Miss Morgan, late of Japan, who gave an interesting account of the work in the Empire of the Rising Sun. Dr. Sutherland spoke at length on the importance of evangelizing the nations of the earth. The Doctor also preached on Sabbath evening, and now and then took part in the Conference proceedings.

His address at one of the sessions, which was largely in reply to questions sent to the platform in writing, was deeply interesting. He called special attention to the Students' Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, and cautioned the Conference against encouraging societies which are outside of the Church, as they tended to weaken the missions of