

world. Many American delegates will return to their homes with a new or increased desire for a union of the various branches of Methodists in this country. The causes of divisions have, for the most part, been removed by time and changes in laws; and there is now no good reason why all Methodists should not be united in one body. The greater good which would result to the Church and the spread of the kingdom of God throughout the world dwarfs into insignificance the reasons for continued separation. With scarcely an exception the smaller bodies are suffering in numbers and in spiritual influence by reason of their independent existence, and if united in one body the single organization would possess a power which they are unable to exert by themselves. This is even more strikingly the case in Great Britain.

TAKING STOCK.

The Ecumenical gave an occasion for taking stock of the growth of Methodism in all lands. The wonderful results of the growth of a little over a century are shown in statistical tables prepared for *The Methodist Times* by the Rev. James Jenkins:

In 1791 there were 120,233 members or communicants; in 1901 there are 7,448,892. Adherents in United Kingdom increased in 110 years from 560,000, or one in 28, to 3 1-2 millions, or one in 12; the population grew 156 per cent.; Methodism, 525 per cent. In the United States adherents grew from 2-5 of a million to 23 1-5 millions, or from one in 13 to one in 3.3; while the population gained 1.329 per cent., Methodism gained 5.700 per cent. In Europe, the proportion of Methodists is one in 90; in Africa, one in 273; in Asia, one in 2,075; in America, one in 5; in Oceania, one in 82. The Church of England has at home and abroad 13 1-2 millions, while Methodism has 29 3-4 millions. The Anglo-Saxon Methodists number 21 1-4 millions; the negroes, 6 1-2 millions; the European contingent is 3-4 of a million; the Asiatic the same; and the aboriginal 1-2 a million. The total voluntary workers are 1,017,604, while the ministers number 45,731. The annual gifts to Methodism are £13 millions; the value of Methodist trust property—churches, parson-

ages, colleges, etc.—is put at £100 millions. The estimated wealth of Methodism is £3,718 millions; its greatest earnings being £595 millions, its savings £148 millions, its givings £13 millions."

In addition to this great army, two millions of enrolled Methodists have joined the General Assembly of the church of the first-born above, beside many millions more, who were not technically members, have been brought under its religious power.

Very high praise is given to our Canadian delegates who took part in this Conference as "equal to any, if not superior to all." Dr. Potts, Dr. Briggs, Dr. Shaw, Dr. Stewart, N. W. Rowell, Joseph Gibson, Dr. Inch, and other representative Canadians, won "golden opinions from all sorts of people." Detailed reports of the addresses of these honoured brethren are given in full in current numbers of *The Guardian and Wesleyan*.

EXPANSION OF METHODISM.

On this subject, *The Methodist Times* has a striking article, from which we quote as follows:

It is very gratifying to learn that during the last century Methodism in the United Kingdom has grown "at the rate of 369 per cent. faster than the population—a leap from one in twenty-eight to one in twelve."

In America the growth of Methodism has been even greater, and much greater than in the British Isles. There it has grown "at the rate of 4,371 per cent. faster than the population, having performed a leap from one in thirteen to one in 3.3." Indeed, America is the great stronghold of Methodism. The United States contain "seventy-eight per cent. of the Methodist family." A favourite sneer of *The Church Times* is that our immense growth is due to the adhesion of negroes. We are very proud that God has given us so much success among the African races. But Mr. Jenkins shows in his ethnological tables that while Methodism includes 6,500,000 of the negro races of all types, we have the adhesion of 21,250,000 of the Anglo-Saxon race. Indeed, a much larger number of Anglo-Saxons, all the world over, are Methodists than are Anglicans.

No other Church furnishes, relatively to its numbers, so many spheres of active service for its