

### Prominent People.

Rev. F. B. Meyer, of London, has received the degree of doctor of divinity from Temple College, Philadelphia.

Mrs. Leland Stanford, at the advanced age of seventy-eight, has started on a voyage to Australia and around the world. She is in fine health and possesses remarkable courage.

Rev. Mark Guy Pearse is now in this country delighting the people with his Cornish stories. He occupied the pulpits of Sherbourne Street and Parkdale Churches, Toronto, on September 27th.

"The profoundest scholarship and the finest intellect can be united not only with the humility of a little child, but with the tenderness of a mother," said a Wesleyan preacher, referring to the late Dr. Wm. Burt Pope, the theologian. How inspiring such a tribute!

The Interior pays a just tribute to Rev. J. R. Miller, who for twenty-three years has been editorial superintendent of the Presbyterian Board of Publication in Philadelphia. In that time he has written forty devotional books, large and small, which have reached an average circulation of over a million copies; some of them have been translated into other languages. In addition, he has all the while served as pastor of some church in Philadelphia which was unable to support a minister.

In taking leave of his congregation at Union Chapel, Manchester, Dr. Alexander McLaren declared that to efface one's self is one of the preacher's first duties. Dr. McLaren is himself a fine type of a man who exalts, first of all, his message, having throughout his ministerial career avoided the sort of publicity which is inseparable in the public mind from personal vanity. His influence, however, has been none the less far-reaching, and it is doubtful whether any minister of to-day is more widely known or more highly esteemed.

### Revival Notes.

Achan's wedge of gold defeated the whole army, with the prayers of Joshua and all the good men with him. Sin in the church defeats the best planned efforts.

Sin in the church produces infidelity and worldliness. Sin cherished by the church, by priest and people, by bishop and pope, caused failure and defeat always,—and always will.

In their attempt to be "practical" some ministers have ceased to preach Christianity. A sermon that could have been preached if Jesus had never come into the world is *prima facie* not a Christian sermon.

Dr. Gregory says: "Two things are necessary to the progress and success of any great movement, or cause—a person or agent capable of being set on fire, and a people prepared for the message." Then he says some things needed are: "First, to bring the people face to face with the vital problems involved in the situation; second, to bring the churches to a campaign of personal evangelism in the bounds of the parish."

The laymen are asking for a salvation preacher; one whose pastoral and pulpit work centres in this one thing, the salvation of souls. The church is a salvation institution. It is different from everything on earth beside; and a preacher must be a different man and a different speaker from any other speaker. He is to lift up his voice and call men to repentance and point them to the Lamb of God. The preacher of to-day is not to waste his time in reviewing

modern novels or lecturing on some popular subject on the Sabbath night. No, no. But he should be a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and he should see sinners coming to God under his ministry or know the reasons for their not coming.—Rev. Robert Stephens.

It was Rev. Henry Ward Beecher who once said: "The longer I live, the more confidence I have in those sermons preached where one man is the minister and one man is the congregation; where there is no question as to who is meant when the preacher says, 'Thou art the man.'" The late C. H. Spurgeon also held this view and almost invariably followed up his sermons by personal dealing with inquirers. This effective method of Christian work seems to have become almost a lost art among professing Christians.

Thank God, a revival is always possible. Nor doubt that A revival is always possible wherever there is one man or one woman and some one to tell that man or woman about God and duty and sin and Jesus Christ who has atoned for sin. In fact there might be a revival without the preacher; it might be enough for that person to be alone with the memory of his past and with the Holy Spirit to show him the way. If he were in earnest he would find the way to God somehow or other.—Letters from an Old Methodist to his Son.

### Methodist Chat.

All the publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church entirely exclude advertisements of patent medicines.

The English Wesleyans practically nominate their president a year in advance. Rev. Sylvester Whitehead is the man for 1904.

Wesleyan Methodism reports a gain for last year of 4,847 members, making a total of 468,072, or with probationers and members of junior classes a total of 593,315.

The Wesleyan Conference appointed a committee to confer with similar committees from the United Methodist Free Churches and the Methodist New Connection on the subject of Methodist reunion.

The Methodists of New York are discussing a suitable memorial to John Wesley, and have about decided to erect a memorial tablet in Old John Street Church, one of the oldest Methodist churches in America. This tablet, if erected, will duplicate that in Westminster Abbey.

Dr. W. L. Watkinson retires from the office of Connectional Editor of the British Wesleyan Conference, and his place is filled by the election of Dr. W. T. Davison. This is one of the highest offices in the gift of the Conference, and the election of Dr. Davison is a deserved recognition of one of the greatest scholars and leaders of English Methodism.

From the Methodist Times we learn that the number of preachers who are acting as class-leaders is steadily increasing, there being at present 1,612 who are enrolled in that office. John Wesley vigorously protested against this tendency in his day, and it is by many considered a unique thing for preachers to act in that capacity. The greatest difficulty in keeping up the class-meeting is to find the right kind of leaders.

The church press is giving glowing accounts of great spiritual awakenings among the people of Sweden. Bishop Vincent writes that large numbers have been converted, and have joined the Methodist Churches. At one place it

has been "impossible to close the meetings before midnight; 500 people crowded together, singing, shouting, weeping. More than 200 have testified their experience of saving grace; more than 100 have joined the church."

It cannot be said that the days of the class-meeting are numbered, but it is certain that this unique institution has lost ground in universal Methodism in recent years. In America and Great Britain the class-meeting is no longer the strong, vigorous centre of spiritual life and power that it once was. That the institution has not died out in Great Britain may be inferred from the fact that there are nearly 27,000 classes in Wesleyan Methodism alone, but that it is losing its place is suggested by the fact that with an increasing church membership the number of classes is declining.

### Literary Lines.

One publication in New York uses 140 tons of paper a day. This represents the pulp from thirty acres of timber taken trunk and branch, or seventeen square miles of virgin forest per annum.

In the United States, copyright is granted for twenty-eight years with the right of extension for fourteen more, making a maximum term of forty-two years. In Great Britain it is granted for the period of the author's life and for seven years after his death; or for not less than forty-two years in any event.

Probably there are few parts of the world where so much reading per capita is done on an average as in Japan. As you take the train your next neighbor pulls out a package of morning papers; not satisfied with one he has goes through them all before you would have had time to glance through your single morning journal in English.

Publishers make a great deal in their advertising of the fact that a book has reached a sale of one hundred thousand copies. But last year the issue of the Bible exceeded seven million copies. The British and Foreign Bible Society issues more than five million copies, and the American Bible Society, 1,723,791. Evidently the influence of the Bible cannot be seriously waning if people buy more copies of it than they ever did before.

Will Carleton, author of "Songs of Two Centuries" (Harper's), has written the introduction to a "Life of Fanny Crosby," the celebrated hymn writer. Miss Crosby, who has been totally blind since her infancy, wrote "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Rescue the Perishing," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour," and a score of other hymns that have gone into the history of hymnology and are sung far and wide. Her career has been a wonderful one in its combination of power and modesty, affliction and patience.

The Halifax Wesleyan has the following concerning one of the books of our Reading Course this year: "There is an old story about Dr. J. G. Holland that as he drove past the office of the Springfield Republican he said to himself, 'There is the place I want,' and the editor, Samuel Bowles, as he was standing in the doorway, said to himself at the same moment, 'There is the man I want.' In less than two weeks after that day he was installed as assistant editor of the paper, in whose columns he wrote the famous 'Timothy Titcomb's Letters, 'Lessons in Life,' and other volumes. This volume is an interesting series of familiar essays written in the easy