

do in promoting the kingdom of God, and if he did it every day. We rejoice to hear of organized bands of Christian workers in connection with some of our churches, who go to neighbouring villages and into the country and engage in direct revival effort. We have been greatly impressed with the efficiency and success of the bands of young people—full of Christian zeal and energy—who, under the wise direction of the Rev. David Savage, have been instrumental in leading twenty thousand souls to the Saviour. We rejoice that in almost all the Conferences there are brethren of special gifts and adaptations specially set apart for the work of an evangelist—men who become “experts” in their holy calling, and who go from circuit to circuit to assist the Circuit Superintendent in his work—not wandering stars, irresponsible and often uncontrollable, but our own brethren, of whose soundness of doctrine we have the strongest guarantees, and who are in every respect amenable to the wise discipline of the Church. We rejoice that in Toronto, at least one Methodist church has, we believe, for two years been open every night in the week for evangelistic work, and that during that time a continuous revival has been in progress. We trust that more and more the spirit of intense and fervid revivalism shall pervade the Church of Christ in all its branches, till the whole world shall be brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

It was a wise as well as devout act of the General Superintendents of our Church and the Presidents of the several Conferences to invite the members and well-wishers of the Church to observe a day of special prayer and intercession for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the deliberations of the approaching General Conference. Most important interests are to come before that body, interests concerning which there may be wide differences of opinion among its members.

There may be questions difficult to solve. But if these questions are approached in the spirit of prayer and of humble dependence on the wisdom which cometh down from above, they will prove more easy of solution than by any amount of the mere dry light of intellectual discussion. Earnest prayer wonderfully clarifies the intellect, and removes prejudice and enlarges the sympathies, and broadens the horizon, and deepens the spiritual insight. The power of prayer was signally felt both during the sessions of Union Committee and in the Belleville Conference, and we doubt not that if the members of the approaching General Conference come together in the spirit of dependence on divine guidance, and feel that their hands are sustained by the prayers of the Church, as were those of Moses by Aaron and Hur, that all difficulties will be successfully overcome, and that great grace and benediction shall rest upon that assembly and shall follow its deliberations.

HELP FOR JAPAN.

We are sure that our readers will peruse with profound interest Dr. Eby's stirring paper on the present religious crisis in Japan. It is true of Churches as of individuals, that there is a tide in their affairs which, taken at its flood, leads on to signal success. We covet for our Church the honour of rising to the height of her privilege and duty in this respect. A pressing need of the hour seems to be a public hall in the city of Tokyo, the heart and brain of the empire, where men like Drs. Eby and Cochran may reach the intellectual classes of the community, and mould and sway their minds in favour of the Gospel of Christ. Such was signally the effect of Dr. Eby's admirable series of public apologetics in that city, and we trust that the means may be provided for securing such a hall as is needed to enable him thus to sway the capital and influence the empire, instead of being lost in little chapels in back streets, where the people could not get in, even if they knew where to find them. Our zealous