

INDIANAPOLIS METHODISM.

BY REV. J. B. T. LATHROP.

INDIANAPOLIS is a typical American city—beautiful, cleanly, enterprising, easy of access, population homogeneous—mostly Protestant. There is a stalwartness, stright forwardness, frankness, characteristic of Hoosierdom. Though only 200,000, or close to that, in population, its situation is so central, and the agricultural conditions so fortunate that the increase in population is steady and substantial. Chicago to the northward, Cincinnati to the eastward, Louisville to the southward, and St. Louis to the westward, are sufficiently distant to make this a thrifty trading point; and being the capital city of Indiana, which, like a sandwich, lies between the great, rich States of Ohio and Illinois with their millions of population, residence here for commercial and wholesale men is very desirable. This immediate Central West was captured for Methodism in the early



FLETCHER AVE. M. E. CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS.

days. What are now magnificent States with the highest civilization, were at the beginning of this century vast domains of forest, inhabited by the Indian, and the tale of those early days charms and thrills every American youth. The white settlements were few and far between, and continually living in dread of massacre. Those were the days of the great William Henry Harrison. The pioneer Methodist preacher with horse and saddle bags pushed his way through almost insurmountable obstacles, and in song and sermon planted the Church of the Lord Jesus. They were men of heroic spirit, large and clear spiritual experience, sound in their interpretation of the Scriptures. They were doctrinal preachers. Some were fine scholars for that time, but most of them were either of the John Strange or Peter Cartwright stamp, hence, Methodism in all this section has partaken of that heroic and emphatic spirit. Indiana has become famous in the Church for stalwartness, and high manliness in the pulpit. Indianapolis Methodism is a fine illustration of this. Every strategic point in the

city is occupied by Methodism. The two United States Senators from Indiana are Methodists, and members of the Meridian M.E. church. It would be impossible to enter any great commercial house here without seeing some prominent Methodist. Mr. H. P. Wasson, of the firm of Wasson & Co., is a Methodist, and recently has been elected President of the Street Car Company; thus could name after name be given. The Indiana National Bank, has as its President, Mr. Mallott, who is a member of the Meridian M.E. church, and is the Chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Convention. It is probable that never in the history of the city has Methodism been more aggressive. Our church edifices, outside of a very few, are unpretentious. Methodism here has not come yet to the period of fine church building. It is coming to be an open question whether it is not more after the Master's

spirit to have commodious and neatly furnished buildings, with a large domestic welcome among the members—church buildings which can be run at a minimum of expense—and lead the membership to larger and more systematic giving to the spread of the Kingdom of Jesus at home and in foreign lands, rather than erect stately piles of stone or brick, and heap upon the local church membership enormous debts and expenditures, creating a necessity to court the rich and influential, and too often consuming the time of pastor and people to save the church itself. Fortunately, Indianapolis Methodism has been able, hitherto, to carry with dignity a few splendid edifices and at the same time address herself to world-wide demands. Meridian M. E. church, Robert's Park, and Central Avenue M. E. church, are architecturally beautiful and substantially built. The congregations are large and increasing. Dr. C. C. Lasby, pastor of the latter, Canadian born, is popular throughout the city, and at this time is devising plans for the erection of an \$18,000 Sunday School room in connection with the present splendid structure. There are thirty three Methodist Episcopal churches in the city.

German Methodists are doing strong work for Christ. The colored Methodists are enthusiastic and enterprising. The ministerial talent was never better than now. There are 2,000 Senior Epworthians in our own M. E. churches, and about 1,000 Junior. Some



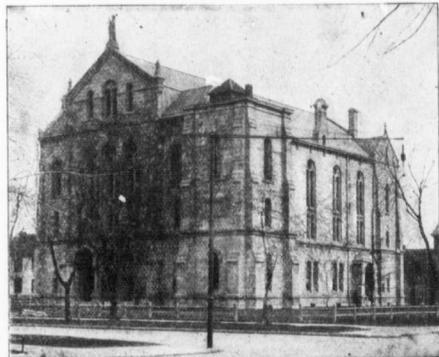
CENTRAL AVE. M. E. CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS.

very remarkable revivals are reported, chiefly at Robert's Park; and also now at the writer's church—the Edwin Ray M. E. church. The brethren preach regeneration and holiness of heart. They insist on coming out to the altar, or as the Fathers said, to the "Mourner's Bench," and gracious have been the results in many of the churches. We have no doubt that the Leaguers will go from here after the convention with many glad-some memories, and will say that Indianapolis Methodism has the fervor of Youth, the cordiality of a typical Southerner, and the sturdiness of a true Canadian.

Indianapolis, Ind., U.S.A.

GREETING FROM THE SOUTH.

The coming International Conference of the Epworth Leagues of Canada and the United States promises to be, in many important particulars, the most enthusiastic and interesting assembly of young people ever held. The Epworth League has now advanced to a point of large development and enduring strength. It has ramified every department of church life. The social instincts of young Methodists have been touched and sanc-



ROBERT'S PARK M. E. CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS.