

A. Sutherland. The vote was, for the former, 132 ; for the latter, 33.

For the editorship of this Magazine and of the Sunday-school publications, the nominations and votes were as follows : Rev. Dr. Sanderson, 6 ; Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., 22 ; Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., 134.

The Rev. A. W. Nicolson, the successful Eastern Book-steward and editor of the *Wesleyan*, was re-elected to the latter office, which has been separated from that of the Book-steward.

At the time of the present writing the business had proceeded no further than above indicated. In a future issue we will present a *resume* of the action of Conference on the principal important subjects brought under its notice.

#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

BY REV. E. BARRANS, M.A.

The second Quadrennial Assembly met in Dorchester Street Church, Montreal. All the ministerial delegates were present at the first calling of the roll, except Revs. Asahel Hurlburt, who had entered into rest, and J. Borland and J. W. McCallum, both of whom were detained by personal affliction. Several laymen, however, were not in their places. This arose from the pressure of business and the circumstance that the parliamentary elections were being held during the sessions of Conference.

After the devotional exercises, the venerable Dr. Ryerson delivered his address as the retiring President, in which he took a review of the work of the Church during the preceding quadrennial term, which contained many evidences of prosperity. In the missionary department there is an increase of one hundred and seventy-eight missions, one hundred and sixty-three missionaries, and a total paid agency of one hundred and seventy-six. It is to be regretted that, while the income is considerably augmented, it is still far behind

meeting the requirements of the Society, hence the debt now exceeds seventy thousand dollars, which necessarily prevents any further extension of the work. The ministers have increased to one thousand one hundred and sixty-five, being an increase of one hundred and thirty-four in four years. The membership is one hundred and twenty-two thousand six hundred and five, being an increase of twenty thousand six hundred and fifty-nine.

The Sunday-schools have increased to one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, a clear gain of two hundred and twenty-one ; while the scholars have increased nearly twenty thousand during the four years.

The increase in parsonages is forty-five, churches one hundred and eight, valued at one million two hundred and eighty-six thousand one hundred and ten dollars. A good augmentation during a period of unparalleled depression in business.

The Educational Fund has increased more than three thousand dollars, while the Superannuation Fund has increased more than six thousand.

The officers elected by ballot for the present Conference were :—Rev. George Douglas, LL.D., President ; Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., Vice-President ; and Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Secretary, with Judge Jones and Dr. Allison Assistant Secretaries. Rev. John Eredin was chosen to act as Journal Secretary, and Revs. Dr. Nelles and C. Lavell, Letter-writers. As so much depends upon the President and Secretary for the despatch of business, it will be readily seen that the Conference, in its selection, had made a wise choice. At no period was there the least delay by reason of the chief officers not being ready or uncertain as to what was to be done.

The religious services, up to the time of writing these notes, have been seasons of great spiritual enjoyment. A prayer-meeting is held