

following sentiments of a leading English journal we heartily concur : "Come what may, Ireland must have kindness, forbearance, education, and justice ; and while her commercial resources are carefully developed, lawless violence must be punished, and, as far as possible, suppressed."

METHODIST LITERATURE.

The wonderful development of American Methodism is one of the most extraordinary characteristics of the present century. It is only when the statistical records are brought under our view at one glance that we get anything like an adequate conception of the vastness of that development. Such a view we get in the admirable Year Book edited by Dr. DePuy.* One of the most remarkable features of that progress has been the growth of its publishing interests. They are now the largest and most successful under one general management in the world. The "Book Concern" was established in Philadelphia in 1789, with a borrowed capital of \$600. In 1804 it removed to New York. The Western Book Concern was established in Cincinnati in 1820. In 1836 the New York Concern was destroyed by fire (loss \$250,000), but was soon rebuilt. An inventory taken at this time showed a capital of \$191,655. Taking this sum from the present net capital of \$1,526,939, leaves \$1,245,284, the gain of capital in forty-three years. Besides this, the two "Concerns" have paid by order of the General Conference, for objects outside of their own business --bishops' salaries, and many other expenses--the sum of \$1,780,589. Adding this, with \$157,685 paid for local papers, to the present capital, we have the sum of \$3,465,214 as the total profits of forty-three years. From its regular and legitimate business alone, under the careful management of officers selected by

the General Conference of the Church, it shows a clear profit of nearly three and a half millions of dollars--an average annual profit of eighty thousand five hundred and eighty-six dollars ! Well may Dr. DePuy remark : "The achievement is without a parallel in the history of religious, benevolent, and ecclesiastical publishing establishments, reflecting great credit upon the fidelity, skill, and business tact of the Book Agents, and upon the general connexional publishing system adopted by the Church."

The total sales for the year 1878-9 amounted to \$1,622,020, and during the last thirty-five years they amount to \$29,278,972 worth of sound Christian literature. From the New York Concern alone, in the year ending June 30, 1879, the number of volumes issued was 727,150, or 2,376 every legal day. The daily number of book pages issued was 506,945, besides a daily issue of 3,702 tracts. In ten years the number of books issued was 5,323,268 vols., besides 16,521,900 tracts. In the subscription department alone, 165,000 large and high-priced books have been issued in four years. Of Sunday-school literature there were circulated last year 1,500,000 copies of the *S. S. Journal*, 5,240,000 of the *S. S. Advocate*, 9,880,000 of the *Picture Lesson Paper*, and 1,392,000 of the *S. S. Classmate*, besides others, making in all about 20,000,000 issues.

These figures are not matters of boastful enumeration, but rather of devout gratitude to God. What a grand moral stimulus has thus been imparted to the national life ! What a potent moral antiseptic to the social corruptions of the times ! The stately premises in Broadway, the busy presses in Mulberry Street, the accumulated capital acquired are as nothing compared with the moral education, the millions of readers of the Christian literature which has thus been diffused through the land. These leaves of knowledge, like the leaves of the tree of life, are for the healing of the nation.

We congratulate our American

* *Methodist Year for 1880*. Edited by W. H. DePuy, D. D. New York: Phillips & Hunt, and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.