

approval are, by a singular coincidence, the society paper known as Saturday Night and The Canadian Baptist. But we hope that eventually our Baptist friends will feel the need of uniting their energies in a corporate manner with the Christian forces of this land. All these Churches are natural allies in the great work of evangelizing the world.

A GREAT RELIGIOUS PARLIAMENT.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was one of the most august religious parliaments ever held. It represented a membership that had grown in four years from 2,893,893 to 3,033,918. Its 752 delegates came from every continent of the world and from many islands of the sea. A feature of special interest was the request of Bishop Merrill, in the seventy-ninth year of his life and fifty-ninth of his ministry, to be superannuated. This prepared the way for the retiring of five other venerable bishops who had served faithfully their generation—the great educational leader, Dr. Vincent; the stalwart Waldron, “in whom the fire of the old circuit rider has never expired or languished”; the saintly Foss; the scholarly Mallalieu; the courtly Andrews.

In view of the incessant travel and travail and great responsibilities of the leaders of Methodism, it was felt that it was neither just to the Church nor to those venerable men to require them to bear for another quadrennium the burden of work which comes to the chief shepherds of so vast a Church. It was a very impressive hour when these men were laid aside from the active duties which they have so faithfully rendered to the Church of God. It vindicated, moreover, the true democracy of Methodism. It affirmed the fact that the Episcopacy was not a prelatic order, but an office; that the power which made the bishops could, with all love and reverence, unmake or retire them.

It is a painful hour when any man, whether the humblest circuit rider or the chief official of a great Church learns that his day of active work is done; but this great Church makes no distinction between the lowliest and the loftiest—a true Christian democracy.

The new bishops are men in the prime and vigour of life, and in all probability will render long years of service to the cause of God. Dr.

Joseph Berry was elected on the first ballot. Like Bishop Warne he is a Canadian and proud of it. He has achieved remarkable success as a leader of the Epworth League. He has stepped down from the tallest pulpit in Methodism to accept the office of bishop. Under his editorship The Herald reached the great circulation of 130,000 copies, and is a great power for good in the land.

William Burt was born in Padstow, Cornwall. After several years' service in the United States he was for twenty years the successful administrator of Methodist missions in Italy. Henry Spellmeyer was born in New York, though, we judge by his name, of German origin. His life has been spent in the pastorate. W. F. McDowell has been for nine years Chancellor of the University of Denver—an accomplished scholar and man of marked rhetorical ability. James W. Bashford has been President of Ohio Wesleyan University since 1889—a man of brilliant scholarship, well known in Canada. Luther B. Wilson, like Dr. Bashford, has been a delegate to our General Conference—a man of marked ability. Thomas B. Neeley, the brilliant editor of the Sunday-school periodicals of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is distinguished as a parliamentarian and debater, rivalling in this respect Dr. J. M. Buckley. Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University, a man of massive proportions, both physical and intellectual, was also elected to the bench of bishops, but declined the honour, feeling that his work was in the sphere in which he has won such success.

For the first time, we believe, a coloured bishop has been elected by the Methodist Episcopal Church—Dr. I. B. Scott, for eight years editor of The Southwestern Christian Advocate, who was elected Bishop of Africa with co-ordinate authority with Bishop Hartzell. Dr. J. E. Robinson and W. F. Oldham were elected bishops of Southern Asia, and Dr. M. C. Harris, Bishop of Japan and Korea. Dr. Herben, of the New York Christian Advocate, was elected editor of The Epworth Herald, to succeed Dr. Berry, and President E. M. Randall, of Puget Sound University, was elected General Secretary of the Epworth League. Both these offices have been filled by Dr. Berry.

The visit of the fraternal delegates from the other Methodist Churches furnished a living link attesting the truth of Wesley's words, “The Meth-