

## OUR NOTE-BOOK.

"THE BAPTIST HANDBOOK" states that there are now in Great Britain and Ireland 2671 Baptist churches, with 265,797 members, and 2524 pastors, and 378,752 Sunday scholars. These figures show an increase on last year's returns of 8371 members and 20,318 scholars.

The *American Year-Book* states that the baptisms in the United States in 1876, as far as ascertained at present, are 109,684, and the total membership of the Baptist churches is 1,932,385—an increase for the year of 117,083.

A conference has been held in the Molesworth Hall, Dublin, in connection with the Association for the Organisation of Lay Help in the Irish Episcopal Church. The object of the association is to organise and distribute voluntary lay help in pious and charitable work in the city and suburbs. The Archbishop of Dublin was present, and in his address adverted to the importance of preserving the right balance between the outward activities of life and the watchful keeping of the heart, giving to each its proper place. There was a numerous attendance, and several distinguished members, lay and clerical, of the Irish Church spoke at the conference.

Mr. Spurgeon has gone to Mentone, in the south of France, to recruit his health, which has suffered severely of late. His stay will extend over six weeks. Previous to his departure he made provision for the services at the Metropolitan Tabernacle by securing the aid of the Revs. A. G. Brown, J. P. Chown, Dr. MacEwan, J. Aldis, and Mr. J. P. Lockhart, by whom the services have been, or will be, conducted until Mr. Spurgeon's return.

A meeting was held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on Tuesday evening, January 30, to bid farewell to the Rev. Josiah Henson, the "Uncle Tom" of Mrs. Stowe's novel, the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding. The old man, who is in his eighty-eighth year, traced in graphic terms, and with mingled humour and pathos, the history of his slave life. Lord Shaftesbury, replying to a vote of thanks, observed that Mr. Henson was a living example of what could be done with the down-trodden race—the negro—who had now been raised to a position that falsified all the prophecies that had been uttered as to his unfitness for freedom.

Between fourteen and fifteen hundred members have been received on trial in the various London circuits of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and the report given shows that the spiritual feeling of the societies generally is in a prosperous state. In various circuits revival missions continue to be prosecuted with much visible success.

Mr. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, has accepted the invitation of the Theological Faculty of Yale University, U.S., as lecturer on preaching for the season of 1877-78. He will proceed to the United States in the autumn, and will remain for a few months, as the number of lectures ranges from eight to twelve during the session.

The opening of the present Session of Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen was looked forward to with much interest, and attracted an immense multitude of people, who lined each side of the route from Buckingham Palace gates, *via* the Mall, the Horse Guards, Whitehall, and every nook—distant or near—from which the Royal procession could be witnessed. The weather, notwithstanding the dismal forebodings of the previous night, was all that could have been desired, and great enthusiasm prevailed. With politics we have nothing to do here, and therefore leave to other journals whose vocation it is to detail the various points of the Queen's Speech. The ceremony was brief, and the procession returned, amid the cheers and loyal demonstrations of the vast assemblage.

The appointment of Sir Bartle Frere as Governor-in-Chief of Cape Colony appears to have given general satisfaction. Sir Bartle, in reply to a deputation from the Aborigines Protection Society, at the India Office, expressed the hope that he might be allowed, during what remained to him of official life, to carry into effect the principle of entire justice to every class, race, creed, and colour.

The Evangelical Alliance has accepted an invitation from Oxford to hold their next annual conference of the members and others friendly to Christian union, in that city.

The American Methodist Episcopal Churches (North and South) have 3,043,704 members, 19,438 itinerant ministers, and 25,656 local preachers. In the non-episcopal churches there are 154,243 members, 1947 ministers, and 1079 local preachers. In the Methodist churches throughout the world

there are 4,172,579 members, 27,812 ministers, and 69,180 local preachers. The total number of hearers is estimated at about 14,000,000.

The lamentable death of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss at the shocking railway disaster in Ohio demands a passing note. The details have been published since we went to press with our last issue. The crash of the bridge, the sudden engulfment of the whole of the cars, some lodging beneath the surface of the ice, through which they plunged with their living freight; others swiftly consumed by fire—all these details are too familiar to our readers. Thus the sweet singing voice was hushed, and its owner, with his wife, was permitted to enter life through death, as has been remarked, in "a chariot of fire." The appeal made by Mr. Moody for their orphaned children was promptly and liberally responded to, and they are secured from want.

A Wesleyan Sunday-school Union has been formed at Leeds for the Circuits comprised in the district, in which there are 33,000 school-children, 6,200 young persons over fifteen years of age, and 6,200 teachers. Commodious premises have been secured in a central position. A large room will be used as a reading-room and for public meetings and several other rooms will be occupied as book depot, class-rooms, kitchens, etc. The opening of the premises was celebrated by a tea in the town hall, and followed by a large public meeting in Oxford-place Chapel, which was presided over by the Rev. John Farrar. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. S. Workman, J. A. Macdonald, W. H. Holland, S. Coley, and Messrs. Binns, Vanner, Day, Learoyd, Mitchell, etc.

The Rev. Canon Wilberforce, speaking recently at a conference in Liverpool, said that there was an inconsistency, which, as a clergyman, he could not help feeling very painfully. The state licensed the publican, and it licensed the clergyman. It licensed him (Canon Wilberforce), to go about praying and teaching the people to pray, "Lead us not into temptation," and at the same time it licensed the publican to go about leading the people into temptation. That was an inconsistency, it was a paradox, it was an incongruity, and there was not room for them if they were both to go about in that manner. In concluding his address, the Canon stated that with his own hands he had administered the pledge to upwards of a thousand working men, many of whom were now spread over the whole civilised world.

Mr. Jani Alli, formerly a Mohammedan of Masulipatam, and a convert of the late Robert Noble's, has just taken his degree at Cambridge, and has been accepted by the Church Missionary Society as a missionary to his countrymen.

Steps are being taken to erect a permanent memorial—in Kidderminster, where he was born, on December 3, 1795—of Sir Rowland Hill, to whom the nation is indebted for the uniform penny postage system, and the adhesive postage-stamp. An influential committee has been appointed, of which James Morton, Esq. (town clerk), and A. W. Beale, Esq., are the hon. secretaries. The committee have issued an appeal for a national penny subscription; collecting cards have been prepared, to enable postmasters and other friends in every locality to assist in the movement.

## DO NOT CRITICISE.

WHATEVER you do, never set up for a critic. We don't mean a newspaper one, but in private life, in the domestic circle, in society. It will not do any one any good, and will do you harm. If you don't like any one's chin, don't put your feelings into words. If any one's manners don't please you, remember your own. People are not made to suit one taste; recollect that.

Take things as you find them, unless you can alter them. Even a dinner, after it is swallowed, can't be made any better. Continual fault-finding, continual criticism of the conduct of this one, the dress of the other, and the opinions of t'other, will make home the unhappiest place under the sun. If you are never pleased with any one, no one will ever be pleased with you. And if it is known that you are hard to suit, few will take pains to suit you.

Youth needs strong reins, because it is hard to be ruled, easy to be drawn aside, and apt to be deceived.

The winds of adversity sweep over our souls, and scatter their fairest blossoms of hope. But the blossoms fall that may bring forth much fruit—patience, faith, and love.