

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

WESTERN CAVALIERS. By DR. REDFORD. Southern Publishing House, Nashville, Tenn.

"There were giants in the earth in those days." This quotation receives apt illustration at various periods of the history of the Church of Christ, when heroism has characterised those who have been the standard-bearers of truth. Men who have gone to the dark parts of the earth, which are full of the habitations of cruelty, for the purpose of rescuing their fellows from the bondage of superstition, have achieved for themselves an honour which is imperishable. They will be had in everlasting remembrance.

The annals of Methodism are full of such names. The founder of Methodism once said, "Give me one hundred preachers, who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God; such alone shall shake the gates of hell, and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth." It has again and again been the delight of the historians of Methodism to detail the deeds of Wesley's sons, which show that the Church which he was honoured to establish has ever had within it such preachers as he here prayed for.

It may seem somewhat egotistical on the part of those who belong to the Methodist Church to speak in terms of eulogy of those who are of the same organisation as themselves; but it must be remembered that in thus writing, Methodist authors are not unmindful of what has been done by those of other communities. We rejoice in their prosperity; we praise God for their success; and if we did otherwise we should not be the true descendants of our illustrious sire, who was "the friend of all and the enemy of none."

As Methodists we are, as a matter of course, most familiar with what is transpiring in the bosom of our own community. The heroic age of Methodism may, with some, have passed away, but there are still to be found those who can brave dangers, endure hardships, and perform exploits that would compare favourably with anything that ever transpired in the early days of Methodism. There is a necessity, as we conceive, that the present generation should understand what works their fathers performed, how they made the wilderness to blossom, how they levelled the mountains, heaved the valley, and prepared a highway in the desert for our God. This can only be done by publishing to the world what they have done. History has been defined philosophy teaching by example. The names of the illustrious are thus recorded in the history of the Church, and from these records we learn what pleasant places we occupy compared with those of our fathers.

Tyerman and others have told us the life story of John Wesley, whose career is now a subject of careful investigation by the philosophical of many lands. Stevens—the Macaulay of Methodism—has given us the most charming history of the people called Methodists. Others have also showed their opinion, so that our libraries need not be without books which contain the history of the Church to which we belong. Sabbath school libraries especially should contain the best works on Methodism, so that our young people may familiarise themselves with the way in which the Church has grown to its present status.