

## General Religious News

The Lutherans have been celebrating the two-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of their foreign mission work by Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Henry Plutchauf.

It is rather remarkable that, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of affairs in Russia during the past year, the British and Foreign Bible Society reports a banner year in the circulation of Scriptures, over half a million copies being distributed in European Russia, besides a very large number in Siberia.

King Edward the Seventh has ordered that the Bible belonging to the late General Gordon be placed in the royal library of Windsor Castle. There it will be in company with Admiral Nelson's letter, announcing the victory at Copenhagen, a fac-simile of the Duke of Marlborough's letter announcing the victory of Blenheim, and many other famous souvenirs.

A clergyman owing allegiance to the Church of England in Canada cannot hereafter solemnize the marriage of a divorced person as long as the other party to the divorce is living. This is the decision reached by the general synod of the Dominion of Canada, representing every diocese of the country. The bishops were unanimous on the subject, nineteen of them being present.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 members of the Salvation Army celebrated General Booth's 77th birthday at the Crystal Palace, London, April 7. The General, who is in such splendid health that he is arranging to start on a tour of Japan by the way of Siberia in October, addressed his enthusiastic followers and announced that the collections in the United Kingdom as the result of the Salvation Army's "self-denial week" had almost reached the splendid total of \$500,000.

The attitude of the missionaries on the field toward Christian Endeavor is shown by the following resolution signed by the veteran missionaries, Rev. Jacob Chamberlain, Rev. William Carey, Bishop J. E. Robinson, D.D., and twenty-five other leading missionaries in India: "Christian Endeavor has been on trial fifteen years in India. We know of no instrument better calculated to awaken enthusiasm, stimulate activity, develop latent gifts, promote Christian fellowship—in short, to make a Christian what he ought to be, than Christian Endeavor when nourished and maintained on the principles that have given the Society so high a place in the church of Christ. Our purpose is to use it in the future even more than we have in the past, and we commend it to those who have not tried it.

## From Over the Sea

The Wesleyan Methodist Church in England has a three years' time limit, but the Conference is not bound by it when it seems wise to have a minister continue his ministry in any charge longer than three years.

A clergyman of the Church of England, Rev. S. W. Thackeray by name, has started a saloon which he calls "The Fish and Eggs," located at Hoddesdon in Essex, Eng., and when not engaged in his clerical duties, acts as his own bar-keeper, passing out the drinks to the fishermen, who are the most common patrons of the establishment. As the young folks are accustomed to say: "That's the limit."

Rev. George Jackson, of Edinburgh, has broken down in health, and has been

forced to relinquish his work in the Scottish city. The English papers seem to think that a short stay in this country will completely restore him. One of them says: "He is now in the Canaries, and we are thankful that he is going to Toronto as pastor for three years. That will be the finest tonic possible, though Canada will gain at our expense."

Rev. T. Bowman Stephenson, in an article in the N. Y. Christian Advocate, seeks to explain the lack of courtesy shown to the representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the British Wesleyan Conference session, by saying that it was quite exceptional. According to reports, our Canadian delegates have, on more than one occasion, received very shabby treatment, quite in contrast to the manner in which British representatives are received on this side of the ocean.

The mission halls in England seem to be more successful than the churches. The preacher with the largest congregation, Sunday by Sunday, in the United Kingdom is a Wesleyan minister, the Rev. Samuel Collier, of the Manchester mission, and the preacher with the largest regular congregation, composed of men only, is also a Wesleyan minister, the Rev. Harry Bisseker, of the Laysan mission, City Road, London. An English correspondent says: "It seems to matter little who goes as minister to the missions, he has marked success continuously, but whoever goes to the city church worked in the usual way has to complain of barrenness."

The spectacle of a minister preaching with a bottle of beer in his pocket is certainly rather unusual, but this is what happened over in England, when the Rev. Stanley Parker was officiating in Plumstead Central Hall. After a tour of the saloons, where invitations were distributed inside and hymns were sung by members of the procession, about sixteen hundred people came crowding into the hall. For diplomatic reasons the most drunken people were invited to seats upon the rostrum along with the preachers. In the audience were many drunken men, fallen women, saloon-keepers and barmaids. Just as Mr. Parker was commencing the service one of the men surrendered a bottle of beer, which the preacher soon found could only be kept in his own pocket with safety, and there it remained throughout the service. Mr. Parker preached from the words, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but he that confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

## Across the Line

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has 1,626,198 members, a little over a million Sunday-school scholars, 120,487 Epworth League members.

A bulletin recently issued by the General Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church South shows an enrolment of 14,192 students in their church schools.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, one of the great papers of the West, publishes a sermon from Rev. W. A. Quayle, D.D., every week. It goes without saying that it is a good sermon.

A London Methodist says: "American Methodists have a right to be proud of their missionary Bishop Hartzell, who is studying and seeking to work out the overwhelming issue in Africa—the native problem, and the share that the blacks ought to have in the benefits of the evangelization and progress."

The Northwestern Christian Advocate, of Chicago, and the "Western" and "Central" have increased their subscription price from \$1.50 to \$2.00. They are the same size as our Christian Guardian.

The Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church receive \$5,000 each as salary. The same amount is paid to the editor of the Christian Advocate, editor of the Sunday-school publications, and Book Editor. Most of the other editors get \$4,500.

The New York East Conference is at the head of a great work, as announced at the recent session of that body. Over half a million dollars are to be expended for missions on the Bowery. A site costing \$265,000 has been purchased, and improvements costing over \$300,000 are to be made. The importance of this to the Church can hardly be estimated.

In commenting on the missionary conventions recently held in various places by the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Epworth Herald says: "What stirring times they have had at the missionary conventions of the past three weeks! From every centre of the world came audiences of thoughtful and influential laymen, of speeches that convinced and convicted, of new understanding concerning missions and new zeal in behalf of missions, of intense spiritual power at work upon preachers and people. Of a truth there is such vitality in the missionary enterprise that it energizes every other form of religious activity with something of its own abounding life."

The Methodist Episcopal Church and the M. E. Church South, in Japan, have united. All the houses of worship and the parsonages now in existence for the use of Japanese pastors will be deeded to native trustees for the Japanese Church. School properties, missionary residences, the Publishing House, etc., will be held by the boards now owning them until such time as a transfer may seem desirable. The new church will begin its existence with more than 100 American missionaries (including women), 75 Japanese ordained preachers, 7,000 members, 189 Sunday-schools with 12,205 scholars, 39 schools and colleges with 3,936 pupils, one Publishing House, and \$200,000 worth of property.

## Prominent People

Bishop and Mrs. McCabe have assumed personal responsibility for the erection of twenty chapels in Puerto Rico.

Jacob A. Rilis has been compelled to cancel all public engagements for some time to come, because of ill health.

John R. Mott has sailed for Europe. He will visit in turn the Christian student leaders in various countries on the continent, and then go to South Africa for a stay of five weeks, where he will visit the colleges and attend an important student conference.

Mark Twain is ready and witty in introducing others to public audiences. At Hartford, years ago, he presented Mr. Howells, and after a word or two as to his literary work said: "But I am not here to speak of his literary reputation, but simply to (after a long pause) back up his moral character."

Rev. Dr. Campbell Morgan, of London, will spend July and August this year at Northfield, preaching at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, six Sunday mornings and afternoons, and in the evenings at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn.