

Editorial and Contributed.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

A T a recent meeting of this important committee, a large amount of routine business was transacted, and several matters of interest passed under review. Among these was a report of the sub-committee appointed to inquire into the condition and prospects of the Blood Indian Mission, and also to consider certain claims of the missionary for expenditure on mission buildings, and other improvements. In regard to the first point, the sub-committee recommended the withdrawal of the missionary, and that the school be continued under the supervision of the present teacher. Touching expenditure on mission buildings, the sub-committee took strong ground against allowing any claim for any expenditure beyond the direct grants made by the Board, unless such expenditure has been sanctioned by the Board or Committee of Finance, in accordance with the standing rule published in the Annual Report.

The General Secretary gave a verbal statement of certain matters in connection with his recent visit to Japan, a fuller report to be presented to the General Board. The committee expressed satisfaction with the statements made, and the following resolution, moved by Rev. Dr. Sanderson, seconded by Rev. H. S. Matthews, was unanimously adopted:—

"This Committee records its grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God for the safe return of Rev. Dr. Sutherland, our General Secretary, from his important mission to Japan, and for the satisfactory work accomplished by him in the organization of the Japan Conference, as well as for the care taken by him in the examination of the condition and needs of the mission schools, and for the steps taken to encourage and strengthen both the one and the other.

"The Committee rejoices, also, in the verbal report presented by Dr. Sutherland in regard to the union of the several branches of Methodism in Japan, and expresses the hope that God will so guide all the future deliberations of this incipient movement, that the largest amount of good may be secured to our Methodism in Japan, and that the glory of God may be largely promoted in that land of great promise.

"To Dr. Sutherland this Committee tenders its thanks for the work accomplished by him, and prays that his valuable life may long be continued to advance the interests of the missionary cause, as well as the interests of the entire Church."

Certain documents from the Mission Council in Japan, respecting the General Secretary's visit, and the proposal to abolish grants to children of missionaries in that country, were presented, and referred for consideration to the General Board.

A letter was read from Rev. Geo. Sargeant, Barbadoes, President of the Wesleyan Conference in those islands, respecting the opening of a Mission by our

Church in the West Indies. The letter was referred to a sub-committee, which had been previously appointed to consider this question.

The General Superintendent called attention to the resolution of the General Conference instructing the Missionary Board to consider and prepare a scheme for a general Sustentation Fund; also the action of the last General Board referring this question to the Committee of Finance, together with certain other persons named. On motion, the following was adopted: "Whereas the General Board of Missions referred to this Committee, in association with certain other brethren, the consideration of a scheme for a general Sustentation Fund; and whereas it has been found impracticable to discuss the question hitherto; therefore *Resolved*, That we report progress to the General Board, and ask leave to sit again."

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

MY first public service in Japan was conducted in the Mission School building at Azabu, Tokyo, on Sunday morning, June 2nd. Pupils of both schools were present, and other members of Mr. Hiraiwa's congregation, in all, about 350 persons. As many of the people could not understand English, the service had to be translated—a very trying process to the preacher, who had to pause every few minutes while his words were repeated in Japanese; but I was fortunate in having Mr. Hiraiwa for an interpreter, and admirably did he perform the task. Our brethren and sisters of the Mission were greatly amused at the way I was introduced. Mr. Hiraiwa presented me to the congregation as "Hakase Sutherland Kun," the latter word being pronounced "coon." The first word is equivalent to "Doctor," (not medical), and signifies broad—a broad man: *i.e.*, a man of broad knowledge or culture. The same word is used in translating Matt. ii. 1 to designate the wise men who came from the east. "Kun" is a title of honor, signifying "prince," "master," or "lord," or a very honorable form of "Mister." Of course some one suggested that by the time I returned home the phrase would be shortened to "wise coon," and that, in turn, would be transformed to "old coon." Such is fame!

In the afternoon I went with Dr. Cochran, through a pouring rain, to Aoyama, where he preached an excellent sermon to the foreigners connected with the schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our M. E. brethren have a splendid property here of about 25 acres, within the city limits, where the munificence of friends at home have enabled them to erect substantial buildings. In the evening I preached again at