

a position which he occupied with great dignity and ability. The Rev. W. S. Blackstock was elected Secretary. The business sessions were characterized by a spirit of harmony throughout, and the public meetings were occasions of much interest and profit. The Sabbath services were seasons of great spiritual blessing. The Rev. Dr. Fowler, of New York, was present, and delivered an eloquent and powerful discourse in the evening. The Rev. W. Pascoe, of the English Conference, did good service at the religious temperance meeting in the afternoon. Five young men were received into full connexion, and two were ordained for special purposes. The statistics showed a gratifying increase in the membership; and, notwithstanding the stringency of the present times, the whole of the connexional funds had been well sustained. This Conference will assemble next year in the town of Brockville.

The eighty-first annual Conference of the Methodist New Connexion, in England, was held this year in the town of Leeds, commencing on the 11th ult. The Rev. J. Medcraft, of Nottingham, was elected President. There were 129 members present at the Conference. It was stated that there had been a net increase of 1,161 members during the year, and that the funds had been considerably increased.

#### ITEMS.

—Church and parsonage erections have been very numerous. It has been simply marvellous, considering the depressed state of trade, that so many beautiful edifices have been built in all parts of the Dominion. Ontario, with its usual enterprise, has largely taken the lead, but it has not by any means been alone. Our brethren in the East have shown a noble determination to build churches which are a credit to the community, and will, we doubt not, tend largely to the extension of God's work among them.

It is delightful also to record the fact that, as a general rule, the debts are either wholly liquidated, or else so arranged that they can never be burdensome. Our fathers in England were for years compelled to struggle under such heavy burdens as were intolerable to be borne, while our brethren in the United States have also been necessitated to provide against similar difficulties. We are glad that a new era has dawned, and that now it has become a maxim in our denomination that debts should be extinguished before churches are dedicated. Such a principle, acted upon, will greatly facilitate the prosperity of the Church in all time to come.

—The increase of members in the Wesleyan body in England is likely to be 9,000, after making up for the loss of 40,000 from the usual causes of deaths, declensions, &c.

—There are three hundred and fifty churches in Burmah, and nine-tenths of the work is done by native preachers.

—There are 900,000 Christians among the 190,000,000 inhabitants of British India.

—The Presbytery of Buffalo, U. S., at a recent meeting licensed Henry Silverheels, a Seneca Indian nearly sixty years old, to preach the Gospel. He has long sustained a high character as a Christian.

—In the schools of Yeddo, Japan, there are 12,000 scholars who are now studying European languages. All learn French, 8,000 are learning English, and 2,000 the German.

—The University of Virginia has three hundred and forty-seven students. It has received, during the past year, donations of \$225,000, besides books and the full equipment of a gymnasium.

—A gentleman in Australia spends \$25,000 a year in the circulation of Mr. Spurgeon's sermons in that country.