

labouring poor and the working classes.

Nor is that circulation limited within its own denominational boundary. Devout readers of other Churches in increasing number purchase its books for their own spiritual edification. It is being more extensively learned that Methodist books are not only safe in their teaching, but also directly stimulative to growth in grace and to maturity in spiritual life. Its illustrations of Scripture precept by examples set forth in Methodist biographies, on Divine Assurance of Salvation, and on Christian Holiness are being more and more appreciated, as old prejudices against these truths of the Gospel are weakened under evangelistic efforts successfully made in the sight of all men. The doctrinal and experimental doctrines of the Gospel proclaimed by Methodism from its beginning, and against which, through most of a century, there arose so loud and general an outcry, have been openly proved to be what God owns and honours in the work of salvation. This naturally subdues and breaks down with thoughtful and candid minds the prejudice against Methodist teaching which, at former periods, existed so strongly; and increasingly they who, outside of Methodism, are earnestly seeking to know the Divine will, and to conform their lives to it, read its publications. And, from this consideration, as well as

others named and unnamed, we rejoice in the vigorous and successful efforts now made to spread, by Methodist agency, Christian literature among the people at large. It is gratifying to know that periodicals equal, in extent of circulation, most of the prominent and more popular magazines and reviews of the day; that increasing numbers of substantial volumes on Christian Theology, and of attractive books for general reading and for the young continue to be supplied through the press of Methodism; that the issues from it in the past year have averaged more than two volumes per week; and that the sales of religious tracts from it have risen to upwards of three millions. In this department of service there is evident reason to "thank God and to take courage." Far more by it, however, would be accomplished if the ministers and people of Methodism should practically and proportionately appreciate its importance, as did Wesley and the early Methodists. On no account would we have the agencies within itinerant Methodism weakened or suspended. If the higher motives influence those who belong to it, and who labour to promote its increased usefulness in the Church and the world, this will not be; but both ministers and people will regard this means of upholding and extending truth and godliness as essentially important.

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

It is with a good deal of satisfaction that we look back over the year's progress of this magazine. Its improved and more popularized character has met with a very cordial response. Its subscription list has been almost doubled, and very many have been the expressions of appre-

ciation and approval which have encouraged us from many different quarters. We beg to express our warmest thanks to all our friends who have so kindly aided in extending its circulation, and especially to the ministers, who are, by virtue of their office, its authorized agents, and who have been its best friends