

after New Year will be available for work in the central conferences, as will also the Rev. John McDougall. The Assistant-Secretary, Rev. Dr. Shaw, will respond to calls for Sunday work, with occasional week-night services. The General Secretary's time is already pledged for October and November. Further announcements will be made in due time.

A Correction.

IN the August OUTLOOK, under the head of "Editorial Notes," a paragraph appeared reflecting upon Dr. James Johnston, of Jamaica, respecting the raising of funds for his mission work in that island, and especially in regard to appeals for money to found a mission in Africa. It appears we were misinformed. We now learn that Dr. Johnston did not intend to found a mission in Africa, but, being about to undertake a journey across that continent, he proposed to take with him several colored men from Jamaica to test the question whether they would stand the African climate better than Europeans, and so relieve white missionaries of forms of work for which they are unfitted; that money was asked for the purpose of paying the expenses of these men, and was used exclusively for that purpose, Dr. Johnston meeting all his own personal expenses from his own means. It therefore follows that our remarks about spending the money given by a Toronto congregation on a holiday trip, and that we regarded such conduct as obtaining money under false pretences, were untrue and unjust to Dr. Johnston, and we deeply regret that they found their way into this paper. We have taken the earliest opportunity since our attention was called to the matter, of making this correction.

Missions at the General Conference.

AS was anticipated, the subject of missions received a large share of attention at the General Conference. A large and thoroughly representative committee was appointed, which held daily sessions almost up to the end of the Conference, and gave a thorough sifting to all documents and resolutions referred to its consideration. The results on the whole are satisfactory. An amended constitution for the Missionary Society has been adopted, which, if not all that could be desired, is an improvement on the old one. It is much to be regretted that the recommendation of the Committee of Finance, respecting the composition of the General Board and the mode of its election, was not adopted. It provided for a Board of twenty-four members, besides the officers, to be elected by the General Conference in certain proportions from certain defined districts of the Connexion. This, while maintaining the principle of territorial representation, would have reduced the numbers on the Board nearly one-half, with a corresponding reduction of expense, and would have given to this most important Connexional Board an element of permanence which is sadly wanting under the present system. Under the resolution adopted,

the numbers elected by the General Conference are reduced from eighteen to twelve, while Annual Conference representation remains the same as before, except in the case of Newfoundland and British Columbia, which are to have one representative each.

It is to be regretted that the proposal for a Sustentation or Home Mission Fund did not receive the full consideration demanded by so important a measure; but the amount of other business claiming attention was such that the Conference was nearing its end before the Sustentation document was reached. That some such division of the Missionary Fund will have to be made in the future scarce admits of a doubt; but sectional interests are too strong as yet to permit of a dispassionate consideration of the scheme. The whole subject has been remitted to the General Board, and it is to be hoped they will give it patient and careful thought during the ensuing quadrennium. The main features of the scheme as outlined by the Committee of Finance were these: A division of the work and fund into Home and Foreign, including in the latter the Indian and French Missions and the Chinese work in British Columbia; an amended scale of stipends; a constitution for the Home Mission Fund; provision for an official visitation to all dependent fields, with a view of increasing local givings; with regulations intended to check the too rapid increase of missions and missionaries. It would seem as if any workable scheme for a division of the fund must include all these points.

Japan affairs received considerable attention. Representatives from that country seemed bent on securing some radical modifications in the relations of the General Board and the Japan Mission Council, and at first the Conference seemed inclined to give them their request, not only to the "half," but even to the whole of the "kingdom." Subsequent reflection, however, led to important modifications, and finally the most important matter of all, a constitution for the Japan Mission Council, was referred to a joint commission, composed of the General Board of Missions and the General Conference Special Committee. There seemed to be a general conviction that the Conference, under a sympathetic impulse, had nearly committed the Church to a dangerous policy regarding the foreign work. The real issue raised was whether the General Board should control the foreign work and appoint its own official representative, or that all this should be done by the Mission Council in Japan or elsewhere. The joint commission, as will be seen from the report of its proceedings, strongly sustained the former position.

The report of the Committee on Missions, adopted by the General Conference, contains many important recommendations. We cannot find room for the document this month, but will probably publish it in our next issue.

SOME Babylonian tablets which have reached the British Museum prove that faith in one God existed in that part of the world as far back as 3,000 years before Christ.