

The Board expressed great sympathy for the missionaries and their families in West China. Dr. Stephenson, who has returned to Canada, does not blame the people for the state of things through which the mission has had to pass so much as the petty officials, whose conduct was highly reprehensible. As soon as possible the mission will be resumed.

Taking into account the receipts from bequests, etc., the total income is in advance of last year by more than \$3,000, though the annual subscriptions are considerably less than last year.

#### BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

There is every probability that the Bible Christian and Primitive Methodist Churches, and perhaps some others in Australia, will be united in the near future. If the minor Methodist bodies in England could be brought together they would form a strong Church.

#### RECENT DEATHS.

Rev. George Grundy, of the Methodist New Connexion, died soon after Conference. He entered the ministry in 1839 and was stationed in most of the important circuits. He was an intelligent preacher and a diligent pastor. During his ministry he was a diligent student and published three books. He retired from the active work in 1883.

Rev. J. Wakefield, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died in the ninety-seventh year of his age. He was a member of Pittsburgh Conference sixty-one years. Two of his sons are in the ministry and both have celebrated their golden weddings. The doctor and his wife walked the journey of life together seventy-two years and then she passed on before.

Rev. Stephen R. Beggs has joined the great majority at the age of ninety-four. He was the first itinerant who preached and organized the first Methodist church in Chicago, which consisted of eight members.

#### DR. LUNN'S EXCURSIONS TO PALESTINE.

A visit to the lands of the Orient has been to many persons, especially to many Methodist preachers, the dream of a lifetime. But hitherto very many have been deterred from the enjoyment and profit of such a trip by the very considerable expense. This has now been greatly reduced.

The Rev. Dr. Lunn, who has so successfully organized the Grindelwald Re-

union Conferences, has arranged a series of excursions to Egypt, Palestine, Turkey and Greece. These excursions furnish first-class accommodation at lower rates than we think have ever been given before for such a comprehensive tour.

Dr. Lunn is able to do this by chartering the *St. Sinnera* on the Mediterranean for the entire season and running a series of excursions from October to May. The *St. Sinnera* is a fine, new steamer, with accommodation for 132 cabin passengers. It has recently been chartered by Lord Rothschild for a tour of the Mediterranean.

The tourists will go from London to Marseilles and there take ship. The steamer calls at Naples and Malta, giving an opportunity to visit both of these places, also to make the excursion to Pompeii. The steamer remains six days at Alexandria to give time for an excursion to Cairo and the pyramids and then goes to Jaffa. Thence the tourists proceed to Jerusalem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem and Hebron. The *St. Sinnera* proceeds to Smyrna, Constantinople and Athens, giving time to visit the historic sites of these famous cities, and returns to Marseilles.

The cost for this trip as arranged by Dr. Lunn is thirty-five guineas for six weeks' excursion from London back to London—about \$180. From Toronto to London and back, by either Canadian steamship line, first-class travel can be given for \$140. About \$60 in addition to these amounts should cover all necessary expenses. Of the several winter excursions our personal experience leads us to recommend that leaving London on February 21st. There are a few places still vacant in an excursion leaving London December 20th. This is five days shorter and costs only thirty guineas. An excursion also leaves London on March 30th; this is also thirty guineas, but we recommend the one giving longer time. Dr. Farrar, Dr. Cunningham Geikie, Dr. Lunn, Sir John Leng and many others are already booked for these excellent excursions.

We had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Lunn at the Grindelwald Conference, and were greatly impressed with the masterly manner in which he arranged for these great representative gatherings of the leaders of social reform and religious movements. Dr. Lunn has sent to our office for distribution a number of his Palestine tour pamphlets which we will be happy to send to anyone wishing a copy.—W. H. WITHROW.