

Scriptures have been circulated since 1804. Noble!

We hope to be excused if we say that Methodist anniversaries most largely command our sympathy. On Missionary Sunday about 200 missionary sermons were preached. Next day 3,000 people sat in Exeter Hall more than five hours to hear of what God had wrought by means of His servants. For years the Society has been labouring under a crushing debt. An increase of income amounting to \$50,000 is required. The past year's receipts amounted to \$848,305, but the expenditure, notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts, exceeded this amount by \$420. There was also a Breakfast Meeting for China, a Home Missionary Meeting, a Missionary Love Feast, and the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund anniversary. Since 1861 64 churches have been built in the Metropolis, capable of seating 1,000 people each.

The Methodist Free Church and the Primitive Methodist denomination each held Missionary Anniversaries, but the former is behind in its funds about \$8,000; the latter has a larger income than in any former year.

OTHER CONFERENCES.

Unusual interest is felt this year in the Conferences of the smaller Methodist bodies, from the fact that largely upon their action will depend the question of Methodist Union. The Primitive Methodist Conference met in Carlton St., Toronto. The Rev. W. Herridge was elected President. The lay members of the Church had voted very largely in favour of Methodist unification; the Conference ratified what the laymen had done, and even went further, inasmuch as the Conference resolved that, as a body, they would not object to slight modifications of the Basis if found more agreeable to all concerned. A few places in the Conference are weak, and it is intended, should the Conferences of the Methodist Church accept the Basis, that these shall be amalga-

dated with the strongest body forthwith. Arrangement was made for levelling up, so that all the ministers may have an equal claim on the Superannuation Fund. A few brethren who have only recently come from England signified their intention to return thither, a few others also tendered their resignation; so that the number of ministers is greatly reduced.

The Bible Christian Conference was held at Exeter, and was an assembly of great interest. The feeling in favour of the Union question was nearly unanimous, and so far as this branch of the Methodist family is concerned there will be no difficulty in arranging the details which are still to be made to make the Union Basis complete.

The Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church have all been held, at Brantford, Orangeville, and Picton. The Union sentiment in all was strong, though the opposition in a few instances might be said to be violent. The question is now being voted at the various Quarterly, Official Meetings, and so far the laity have spoken unmistakably in favour of the Basis. It is greatly to be regretted, that some who are opposed to Methodist Union have sought by means of writing in the press to prejudice the people against the subject. The controversy has been very bitter, and threats of litigation are even thrown out. We hope for the sake of our common Methodism, and above all, for the sake of the cause of Christ, that such unseemly strife will cease, and all will love as brethren. The eyes of Methodists throughout the world are now looking wishfully to Canada. The Union which took place here a few years ago was a new era in Methodism. Since then the Primitive Wesleyans in Ireland have united with the Old Body, and both have been for the advantage of Methodism, and now if, by the blessing of God, there can be a unification of all the branches in Canada, other unions will follow in the Australasian Colonies, and may be even in old England itself.