

Few institutions in the world could cash such a draft as was drawn upon the Bank of England by the Chinese Government for payment of the Japanese indemnity. One of these cheques was for £11,889,000. It looked funny to see a penny stamp placed upon this cheque to give it validity.

Edward Bellamy, author of "Looking Backward," and "Equality," books discussing the economic relations of society, died at his home in Massachusetts, May 22nd. He was born in that state in 1850, and educated in Union College and in Germany. He was employed on the staff

of the *New York Evening Post* and other leading papers. Of his "Looking Backward" more than 500,000 copies were sold. His social theories while interesting to read, are rather visionary in their conception and impossible of application.

Baron Lyon Playfair, a distinguished scientist, has joined the great majority. He is the author of numerous scientific books, and was the instructor in science of the Prince of Wales. A demonstration of his confidence in his instructor is shown by the fact that on the assurance that the experiment was perfectly harmless the Prince plunged his hand into a pot of molten metal.

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

THE CONFERENCES.

The leafy month of June is the pleasant time for the gathering of the tribes of our spiritual Israel. A couple of the Conferences only meet in May. Our beloved country looks her loveliest in this month of flowers. The lilacs and syringas fill the air with fragrance. The vivid green of fields and woods is refreshment to the eye. The sense of rapid growth brings inspiration to the mind. To many of the brethren this is the chief, and to some of them the only outing of the year. Very delightful is the greeting of old comrades, of College friends, of busy toilers in their diverse fields of labor.

The hymn with which the Conference opens is generally the one beginning:

"And are we yet alive
And see each other's face?"

There is often a tremor of pathos as we think of those who have fallen on the field of battle and whose places on earth shall know them no more. With the opening prayers are mingled thanksgiving to God for the warfare accomplished and the victory won by the veterans in the service who have been called from labour to reward.

There is on earth no grander brotherhood than that of the Methodist ministry. The passing years may write their wrinkles on the brow, and streak the hair with silver, and bow the frame, but the common service for the common Lord keeps the heart young and full of

gladness; and in moments of relaxation the hearty laugh and rich relish of a joke show the keen sense of enjoyment which a heart at peace with God and man promote.

No body of ministers co-operates more intimately with their lay brethren or grasp them more closely to the heart with hooks of steel. There is no assumption on either part to lordship over God's heritage, but there is a strong consciousness that they are fellow-laborers in a common service for a common Lord. It is a demonstration of fidelity to this service that make busy laymen, controlling great financial, commercial and political interests, devote day after day to the politics of the kingdom of heaven, to the advancing of God's work in the world.

Memorial Service.—Of special tenderness and pathos is the memorial service for those who during the year have departed this life. A brief obituary is read and their old companions in arms lay their wreath of love and loyalty upon their graves. It is not a service of gloom, but of solemn gladness, though not unseldom the voice quavers and the tear falls.

In no church on earth is more faithfulness maintained in regard to the ministerial standing. Of every minister in the connexion the question is asked at the May District Meeting. "Is there any objection to his moral and religious character?" "Does he believe and preach all our doctrines?" "Has he