

one-half of this amount is raised in the city of Toronto. A large increase is anticipated this year.

Since our last issue tidings have been received from every Conference respecting the progress of the good work. Evangelistic services have been numerous held: we do not remember that they were ever more so. In some instances conversions are reported by the score, in others by the hundred. At Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, where Rev. Messrs. Crossley and Hunter have been labouring for some time, more than 700 conversions are reported.

The New Year's mass meetings, at Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, were seasons of hallowed enjoyment, and each of them would be an epoch in the history of the thousands who took part. St. James' church, Massey Hall and Grace church were all crowded to their utmost capacity. The collection at Massey Hall exceeded \$100, which was given to the Sick Children's Hospital, and was a noble New Year's gift to a worthy object.

Churches have been dedicated, and others re-dedicated, at Greenbank, Gananoque, Minesing, St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Flesherton. The edifices are highly commended and some of them are pronounced to be fine specimens of architecture. What is especially gratifying is that they are mostly reported free from debt.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

There are 4,725 churches which contain accommodation for nearly a million people. They cost \$15,680,330, and are valued at \$18,104,910. The debt remaining on them is a little over \$5,000,000. Forty-eight churches were built last year at a cost of \$311,860.

The Connexional Insurance Company is in a prosperous condition. It has issued in all 7,031 policies. The claims were heavier last year than usual and amounted to \$2,757. The directors allocated \$5,326 to aid trustees in reducing their debts, and added \$4,964 to capital account, which now amounts to \$126,725. The income last year was \$15,305.

The feeling in favour of Methodist Union in the Australian colonies is very strong. Some of the ministers who are antis wish to be taken into the home Church when the union is consummated.

The feeling is growing very strong in the North of England that attendance at the sacrament of the Lord's supper should be the only test of membership.

Mr. W. P. Hartley has presented to each minister connected with the Liverpool Ministerial Association, a copy of Professor Salmond's work on the "Christian Doctrine of Importality."

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION.

The debt on the Missionary Society has been the cause of much anxiety. One gentleman has agreed to give \$2,500 towards its extinction, providing others will raise the balance. The net increase of converts in China last year was 136.

In several circuits steps are being taken to erect ministers' houses, or parsonages, as memorials for the centenary year.

A bazaar at Dudley produced \$1,153; another, at Halifax, realized \$5,007.

ITEMS.

Why do people say so much about what churches cost and so little about what sin costs? Sin is the most expensive thing in the land.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

The story comes from Java of a man, son of a Russian and a Japanese woman, who many years ago was converted by a dream and called to give the Gospel to the nations. He is working, and has worked for years in the midst of bitter persecution, and now at last he has a Christian settlement around him, with three or four thousand native adherents, and schools and other accessories of a great missionary work.

RECENT DEATHS.

The parent Methodist body has been bereaved by the death of the Rev. Theophilus Woolmer. Though he had been retired for some years from the active work his death is regarded as a great loss. He was the son of a minister, and had served the Church with great faithfulness. He was for some years governor and chaplain of Kingswood School, where in his youthful days he was a pupil. He was also secretary for the Extension of Methodism, and for ten years he was Book Steward. He had attained the age of eighty-two and was fifty-five years in the ministry.

Rev. H. C. Benson, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been called to his reward. He was editor of two *Christian Advocates* for eight years, and laboured in the Indiana, Arkansas, Oregon and California Conferences. He was a member of four General Conferences.