

METHODISTS AND PRESBYTERIANS.

METHODISTS and Presbyterians in the North West seem to be about equal in strength, judging from the returns in the official reports. In Manitoba and the Territories the Presbyterians have 19,972 members, while the Methodists have 19,083. In British Columbia the figures are: Presbyterians 4,059, Methodists 4,293. These figures are taken from the Methodist Minutes of 1901, and the Presbyterian Year Book of 1902, and do not include the membership on the Indian Districts. With these taken in, our Church would be 2,600 members in advance in the whole country west of Port Arthur. The census returns, however, show the Presbyterians considerably ahead of any other denomination for Manitoba and the North-West. This seems a little strange in view of the Church reports being so nearly on a par. The Presbyterians are an aggressive and enterprising people, and as a rule conduct their work fairly and honorably, without proselyting. Our ministers and theirs labor side by side in the greatest friendliness. It seems a great pity, however, that some means could not be adopted to prevent denominational rivalry in small places where one church would be more than sufficient to meet the spiritual needs of the people.

A YOUNG WOMAN'S INFLUENCE.

BY REV. W. McMULLEN, B.A.

HAS she any? She has, for good or evil; and it reaches far. No angel in heaven can influence man as woman can.

Upon what does that influence depend? It cannot be measured by length of tongue, for great talkers are not often listened to. It is not independent of, and yet is not rightly gauged by, dress, for tailors' dummies and dressmakers' models are usually woodpeck-headed. It does not attach alone to beauty, for the attractiveness of beauty is weak compared with that of cultured kindness. Brain power is not a true index, for it, alone, inspires awe rather than esteem, and creates admirers rather than disciples.

Influence depends on many things—the subtle magnetism of kindness, the persuasive force of a soft and gentle voice, the witchery of smile and song and laugh, and the thousand nameless things that speak the lady. These are possible to all. In thinking of your influence, worry not over the powers God forgot to give, but use His gifts. Find your sphere. The lichen loves the rock, the trillium the woods, the fern the mossy, shady nook; each has her sphere. So, sister, God meant thee for some special nook. Find it.

Some girls have no influence with girls, because they keep all their smiles and kind words for men. Don't forget your sisters. They need you. Your influence should reach both men and women.

Don't be too pliable. Duty never bends. It seems natural for womanhood to yield, and difficulty may often be evaded by surrender, but only at the cost

of influence; for men have no respect for a human eel.

Speak kindly. A censorious tongue is a perpetual scourge, but kind words heal wounds. Goodness is greater than smartness.

In your work for God you will often blunder. Don't worry too much over your blunders, but learn from them. Be

A WAY THEY HAVE AT CONFERENCE.

SELDOM has there been a more hearty and spontaneous offering than that which Hamilton Conference gave to St. James' Church after hearing the statement of its pastor, Rev. J. W. Graham. No appeal for money was

made, and no immediate contribution was expected. But scarcely had Mr. Graham sat down when a stout, good natured delegate arose and said, "Mr. President, why not take a subscription? I am one of the defeated candidates for General Conference. Had I been elected the trip would have cost my wife and me \$100. I will give that much money to St. James." In the rear of the church another brother arose. "I, too, would have gone, had I been sent. I'll give \$100." Then, in a minute, he added, "I've been talking to my wife. Had we gone to Winnipeg, we would have gone on to California. I'll make mine \$200." Then a third man spoke up: "The successful candidates must not be shamed by the unsuccessful. I'll give \$100." A



WESLEY CHURCH, WINNIPEG.

fourth added: "The case of St. James' has always appealed to me. Put me down for \$100." A fifth said \$50; a sixth \$25, and their whole health was on fire. Before the secretaries could prepare themselves, came a volley of twenty-fives; faster than they could be recorded came a fusillade of tens, quickly followed by another of fives. During a lull \$1,925 was announced from the platform. "Make it \$2,000," was the cry, and in less than five minutes the amount rose to \$2,060.

Such a subscription was twice blessed; it cheered the heart of St. James' young pastor, and it put the Conference in excellent spirits. A District Chairman said to a man beside him: "I was afraid that we would get through the Conference without a subscription." Had a thing so unprecedented happened, the brethren would have felt themselves "clean disgraced."

Try to forget yourself and remember others. Be not anxious to know many people, but to help those you do know. Try not so much to extend your influence as to strengthen it.

Shun questionable company. Remember, wealth is no surety for character. Gilded sin is not holiness, and the world knows it. Keep good company or none.

Be sincere. Do not say all you mean, but mean all you say. Perfection may be impossible to men, but we can at least be true.

Let dress and speech, song and prayer, clasp of hand and glance of eye, be all expressions of your sincere desire to please your God and serve your brother. Leave the rest to God.

Harrow, Ont.

A millionaire once said to me: "I never got real happiness out of my money until I began to do good with it." Be useful if you want to be cheerful. Always be lighting somebody's torch and that will shed its brightness on your own pathway, too."—T. L. Cuyler.