

three additional missionaries to China.

AUSTRALASIA.

The Rev. Gervase Smith, D.D., appears to be enjoying himself among the Churches in the Southern world. He has everywhere met with a cordial greeting. The following item deserves special attention: "At Melbourne District Meeting it was resolved that in the examination of character each member of the meeting should be in his place when the usual questions are put, rise to his feet, and, according to the English usage, answer for himself with regard to his belief and preaching of our doctrines."

IRELAND.

Some of the Wesleyans want to

institute an annual lecture in connection with the Conference similar to the Fernley lecture in England.

Great preparations are being made for the union of the Primitive Wesleyans with the Wesleyan Methodists. Union committees are being formed at various central places, and several paternal visits have been made to each other's churches. There is every reason to believe that the union will be a happy consummation.

STATISTICAL.

The Methodist Almanac for 1878 furnishes in detail the official summaries of the various Methodist churches throughout the world, from which we learn that there are 28,714 ministers, 67,121 local preachers, and 4,383,888 members.

BOOK NOTICES.

The People's Commentary — Brief Notes on the New Testament. By Amos Binney. 12mo, pp. 706. New York: Nelson & Phillips; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

One of the glories of Methodism is its valuable contributions to Biblical interpretation, comment, and popular exegesis. Wesley's Notes and the noble commentaries of Clarke, Benson, and Coke in the mother country, and of Whedon, Steele, Terry, and Binney in the United States, have kept up the succession of devout Biblical students and commentators from its beginning to the present time. The enterprise of the Methodist Book Concern of New York in projecting and carrying out a comprehensive Commentary on the whole Bible, under the editorial oversight of Dr. Whedon—the New Testament Commentary being almost entirely his own work—has laid the Methodism of the Old World,

where it has been republished, as well as of the New, under great obligation. From a letter recently received from the venerable editor, then in Florida, we learn that he is nearly through the Book of the Revelation, so that the New Testament in five volumes will soon be completed. Of all popular commentaries that we know, we regard this as by far the best. The present volume is not likely in any way to supersede it. Nor is it so designed. There are many persons, however, who cannot afford a commentary in five volumes, who will be glad to get this comprehensive yet compendious one, covering the whole New Testament in one volume. It is a marvel of compression, and of succinct yet not mere cursory treatment of the subject. Its Scripture references are especially full, thus making the Bible largely its own interpreter. The pronunciation of the proper names is carefully marked, another