

TABLE TALK.

BY THE REV. DR. STONE.

THE Minutes of the Conferences of 1885 present the following statistics of Canadian Methodism at the close of the first year of the union : Ministers 1,526, of whom 1,274 are in the active work. Members 185,292 (an increase of 20,000 during the year 1884-85.) Local preachers 1,755, exhorters 399, class-leaders 5,561;—or a total officary force in the spiritual government of the Church of 9,241.

The contributions of the Church for the year were:—For Connexional funds \$249,007.77, being an average of a fraction over \$1.34 per member; for pastoral support—exclusive of the three eastern Conferences—(Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland Conferences) whose returns in respect to this and other funds are incomplete—\$509,055.51, and for all other purposes \$587,563.22; or a total by the western Conferences of \$1,323,688.32, an average of \$8.57 per member. By Conferences, the highest average—about \$10—was by the Toronto Conference, and the lowest—exclusive of Manitoba, which is mostly a mission Conference, and also of the eastern Conferences—was London Conference, whose average per member was a fraction over \$7.37, or about one cent less than that of Guelph Conference.

Among the churches, the Metropolitan, Toronto, stands pre-eminent in the gross sum of \$23,335.82 raised for all purposes, which is an average of \$34.11 per member, of which sum \$3,500 was for missions, an average of over \$5 per member. Of other prominent churches, Queen's Avenue, London, contributed an average of \$31.11 per member; Ottawa Centre, \$26.31; Wesley Church, Hamilton, \$25.14, and Centenary Church, do., \$20.83. In the support of missions the following churches contributed

over \$2,000 each :—Metropolitan, Toronto, with a membership of 684, \$3,500; Montreal First, membership, 478, contribution \$3253; Halifax South, membership 301, contribution \$2,594.73; Sherbourne Street, Toronto, membership 387, (exclusive of Gerrard Street mission) contribution \$2,200. Centenary, Hamilton, membership 445, contribution \$2,150.39. The Church has under her management 448 domestic missions, with 42,974 members, and upon which 441 paid agents are employed; 47 Indian missions, with 3,783 members and 86 paid agents; 12 French missions, with 280 members and 16 paid agents; and 8 foreign missions, with 465 members and 21 paid agents.

There are 2,495 Sunday-schools, under the oversight of 22,902 officers and teachers, and embracing 180,712 scholars. The literature provided for these scholars embraces 253,135 library books, a periodical circulation of 123,515 papers; 87,951 *Berean Quarterly* and monthly Lesson Leaves, and 11,052 copies of the monthly *Sunday-School Banner*. The amount contributed by the Sabbath-schools during the year was as follows :—For school purposes, \$73,503.14; for missions, \$15,905.98; towards the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, \$1,649.22; a total for all purposes of \$91,058.34, which is an average of over forty-four cents each for the whole number of officers, teachers, and scholars. Over 6,000 scholars are reported as having been converted during the year, and 27,588 are reported as meeting in class. The Montreal District takes the lead in the amount raised for Sabbath-schools for missions, the total sum being \$3,375.27; and the Toronto District, by an aggregate of \$8,847.68, for all purposes.