

on "The Forward Movement for Missions," in which he declared that there were a number of volunteers ready at any time for the mission field. In the discussion which followed the question was asked, whether these volunteers were willing to accept missionary work in this country, or were they only prepared to go to some foreign field. Mr. Emerson stated definitely that these young workers had expressed their readiness to go anywhere on the face of the earth that the Church might send them.

Rev. E. Crumsey said that there was a great benefit in having a living link between the supporting Church and the field, and favored the plan of having a district support a missionary as its own representative.

Dr. Ryckman referred to the frequent cry concerning the dangers of this movement. "There may be dangers," said he, "but I have not seen them." He thought that the offer of these young volunteers ought to greatly stimulate the Leagues to increase their givings.

Rev. D. C. Sanderson asked if any of the districts which have undertaken the support of a missionary, should fail to raise the amount necessary, will the General Board make up the deficiency? Mr. Emerson replied that in the support of men already on the field, any deficiency is made up from the general fund, but several new missionaries are now going out who have undertaken to accept what the Leagues may raise without expecting any guarantee whatever.

THE POPULARITY OF SHELDOON'S BOOKS

and its significance was discussed by Rev. G. S. Clendinnen, of Brockville. After referring to the faults and defects of the books, he spoke of the reasons which explain, to some extent, their great circulation:

1. He thought it signified a growing interest in religious and evangelistic themes. Religion is a much more frequent subject of discussion in the literature of the day than it ever was.

2. It signifies that all the world loves the man who has an earnest purpose, and pursues it steadily.

3. It signifies that the existing social order is seriously at fault. The condition of the poor in large cities needs improvement. The saloon, machine politics, etc., should be abolished.

4. It signifies that the heart of the Christian Church acknowledges its need of a truer unselfishness, and a more complete acceptance of the law of the Cross.

THE JUNIOR WORK

was taken up at the morning session of the second day. The subject was introduced by Miss Harryett, of Ottawa, who read an excellent paper on "The Junior League as a Training School," which was followed by a Round Table Conference, conducted by Rev. A. C. Crews.

"Keeping the League out of Ruts," was the topic of a fine paper, by Mr. G. P. Putnam, of Merrickville. The subject is of such general interest that we shall reproduce it entire in next month's ERA.

Mr. Charles McLean, of Brockville, gave an interesting chalk-talk on "Christian Work and its Encouragements."

LITERARY FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Rev. R. Calvert, of Riceville, read a suggestive paper on this topic. He commended the Epworth League Reading Course, and thought it was exceedingly helpful as a point of departure for larger literary development. He recommended that the ministers should instruct the young people regarding what to read, and how to read. Church history, and

especially our own Church history, should be emphasized. Lectures on these subjects were suggested. Miss Ross, of Almonte, read a valuable paper on "The Relation of the Epworth League to General Educational Movements," which referred to Sabbath observance, the temperance reform, etc., and emphasized the importance of our young people taking up these questions. The use of the public libraries was commended, and ministers and teachers were urged to help young people by calling their attention to books that they ought to read.

An interesting discussion followed on literary methods, which was conducted by the General Secretary.

FORWARD MOVEMENT IN BIBLE STUDY

and evangelistic work was presented by Rev. Ernest Thomas, who is an enthusiastic advocate of Bible study. He believed it was an encouraging sign of the times that evangelistic movements were being founded on the Word of God. He thought that there was a tendency to think too much of saving men from sin, and not enough of the truth and the life to which they were called. This paper provoked a long and lively discussion. One of the most striking features of the Convention was the readiness and



METHODIST CHURCH, SMITH'S FALLS.

heartiness with which the delegates responded when an opportunity was afforded for general conversation. More time was taken up in Round Table Conferences and discussions than in reading papers, and as a consequence those present carried home many valuable suggestions gleaned from the experience of others.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

adopted by the Convention expressed appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Secretary, Mr. Lockburn B. Scott, and gratification for his recovery from serious illness. Appreciative reference was also made to the spirit of loyalty to Queen and country that has recently been manifested by Canadian volunteers. The Forward Movements for Missions and for Bible study and Evangelistic work were heartily commended to the Leagues for their adoption and support.

THE NEW OFFICERS.

The officers elected for the next two years are as follows:

President—Rev. G. S. Clendinnen, Brockville.

1st V.-Pres.—Mr. Geo. Conly, Cardinal.

2nd V.-Pres.—Miss Lettie Walker, Kingston.

3rd V.-Pres.—Mrs. T. S. Kendrick, Athens.

4th V.-Pres.—Miss Anderson, Smith's Falls.
5th V.-Pres.—Miss Harryett, Ottawa.
Sec'y-Treas.—Mr. L. B. Scott, Ottawa.
Representative to General Board—Rev. D. Wintler, Montreal.

THE CLOSING SESSION.

The last meeting of the Convention was well attended, and was very impressive. The Rev. Dr. Ryckman, who was introduced as "one of the brightest and youngest men in the Conference," delivered a very able address on "Characteristics of Methodism at the Beginning of this Century and at the Close."

This was followed by a feature somewhat unusual in Conventions, the admiration of the Lord's Supper, conducted by the ex-President, Rev. D. Wintler.

Thus closed one of the best Conventions the writer has had the privilege of attending during recent years. A. C. C.

The Lights Went Out.

Speaking of amusing church coincidences, as you did in the ERA a few issues ago, recalls to the mind of one who was there an incident that occurred in a town sixteen miles from Toronto. In the absence of our pastor, a well known supernumerary minister from Toronto, with snow-white flowing locks, was preaching an earnest sermon on "Wasted Opportunities." The church was lighted by gas manufactured on the premises. To obtain the necessary pressure, a very heavy weight, operated by pulleys, was hung in the basement, immediately under the pulpit platform and attached to it for greater strength—an arrangement of which the congregation generally knew nothing. A strong wind happened to be blowing, which shook the windows and created some commotion about the swinging doors. As the minister in earnest and somewhat vehement tones exclaimed, "They shall bind him hand and foot, and cast him into outer darkness." There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth," there was, immediately under the pulpit, a snap and a rattle, a whirr-r-r and a thud which shook the church to its very foundations, and in three or four seconds the audience room was in total darkness. As the lights went out the last scene which greeted the eyes of the congregation was the venerable minister, with extended hands and upturned face exclaiming, "Lord have mercy upon our souls," while several of the more nervous ladies in the chorister's gallery sprang over the railing to the pulpit platform at the minister's back, and became hysterical. A panic was prevented by the presence of mind of some of the officials explaining that only a ratchet wheel had broken, letting the weight down, and there was no danger whatever. When lights were secured to enable the congregation to leave the church, the minister was still standing with bowed head leaning over the pulpit. There was no further service that evening. S. S.

Curious Spelling.

Following are a few of the ways Chicago is spelled on letters that come to the office: Chicago, Chagago, Chacago, Chacico, Chagio, Chaiago, Chigai, Chorgio, Chorgo, Chorgo, Chigico, Chigago, Chicho, Chigi, Chigako, Chighte, Chichago, Choinco, Choga, Chreago, Chigago, Chikago, Chisago, Gacoco, Chigago, Hicago, Kikago, Shicago, Schikko, Schogio, Schelchaco, Shkago, Sjicago, Stikago, Sukarago, Tschicogo, Tchigo, Tchiago, Zhtigo. —Chicago Journal.