

## Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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### THE METHODIST CHURCH—ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

June is the Conference month in Canada. Most of the annual Conferences then meet and review the labours of the past year. At the time these notes are being prepared, we have not heard any intelligence from the Maritime Conferences or Newfoundland, but between Montreal in the east and British Columbia in the west, there are eight Conferences, and the net increase of the membership amounts to nearly 4,000, so that, like Paul, the brethren may "thank God and take courage."

*Toronto Conference.*—The Queen City of the West is always the place of meeting for this Conference. Toronto appears to be a place of universal attraction. It would be a matter of great difficulty to secure such an attendance at any place outside of the city. The number of Conferences held here since 1831—the date of the meeting of the first Conference—is very great. Of those whose names are found in the Minutes of Conference that year only the following survive, viz., Rev. E. Evans, D.D., H. Shaler and James Brock.

The *personnel* of the Conference is greatly changed. Since 1890, Revs. S. Rose, D.D., R. Clarke, T. W. Jeffery, M. B. Conron, H. M. McMillan and R. Pinch have joined the great majority, and since the Conference adjourned, the Rev. J. W. McCallum has also followed the departed.

The ministerial session was a new departure, but seemed to work well. One brother, who had become somewhat heterodox on the question of future punishment, was under arrest, but was given another year to calmly consider his position. There is good reason to hope that his views will then be in harmony with those of his brethren. Rev. LeRoy Hooker

retires from the active work for one year, and the Rev. W. A. V. Pattysen tendered his resignation as a member of Conference, and purposes to connect himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. All were sorry to part with a brother so beloved, and prayers were offered for his future prosperity. He is the son and a grandson of Methodist ministers. Four brethren, Revs. E. B. Harper, D.D., E. Barrass, D.D., C. Taylor and S. Down were added to the list of superannuates. The two first-named have been fifty years in the itinerancy, and delivered suitable jubilee addresses.

There were six young men received and ordained for the Christian ministry. Notwithstanding the large number of candidates received, there was no overplus of ministers, though happily permission was granted to a goodly number to attend college.

For the first time in the history of Methodism in Canada, a layman was appointed Secretary of Conference, and from the manner in which Mr. Warring Kennedy discharged his onerous duties, the Conference had no cause to be sorry for adopting the new departure.

Great interest is always felt in the election of President. This year the Rev. H. S. Matthews was the almost unanimous choice of the brethren. He was master of the situation, and performed his duties very satisfactorily.

The anniversary meetings were full of interest, but the meeting for the reception of young men who had completed their probation was probably the most enthusiastic. The addresses of Revs. M. L. Pearson and W. J. Maxwell were very powerful.

The young people of the Epworth Leagues in the city gave a welcome to