

best telescope six or seven hundred stars were discovered; but what a weariness of the eye to distinguish these and to keep them apart, and to avoid regarding the mere illusions with which we are all familiar in attempting to scan the heavens. A sensitive plate exposed for an hour will show twice as many stars. In four hours the number revealed has been counted to be 2,326. Observations are sometimes taken lasting a whole night, and even during successive nights, though one finds it hard to believe in the accuracy of the clock-work and the manipulation which will enable this to be done with the requisite precision. The civilized countries have undertaken to map the whole heavens, and twenty telescopes in different parts of the world are constantly engaged upon the task. Stars can be now seen in diverse conditions of development, but to compare their conditions and relative positions at one time with those at another, can be only imperfectly done in one generation. Such changes take place in hundreds of years, thousands of years, cycles of, to us, infinite duration. From all this mapping we may learn something, but the hope faintly and fondly cherished is that generations to come may learn more.—*Montreal Witness.*

THE COLORED METHODISTS.

A REMARKABLE GATHERING AT THE
ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE,
WASHINGTON.

The colored Methodists of Washington have a Metropolitan church of their own. All the delegates were invited to a reception in that church on Friday evening. It was a surprise to most of us to find that the colored people had such a splendid and spacious church, larger than the edifice in which the sessions of the Conference are held. Of all the meetings held during our stay in Washington this was the most memorable, the most enjoyable, and the most enthusiastic. The simple

fact that the most distinguished preachers, authors and administrators in British and American Methodism were there as the guests of the colored people, where the latter were directing the exercises of the occasion, was an event that marked an era in the history of the upward march of the African in America. There was a large audience, and a good array of doctors and bishops, men of unmistakable force, whose ebony faces gave evidence that they were untainted with white blood. The effect produced on the delegates by the eloquence of some of these black orators and the rare music of the choir, accompanied by the grand organ, is utterly indescribable. The singing by a large colored choir was thrilling, exceeding in sweetness and softness anything I have ever heard. The speaking of the white guests was excellent; but that of the colored speakers took the audience by storm. Rev. L. Copping, of Philadelphia, gave the address of welcome. It was full of thought, forcible and witty. No mere gushing declamation, but marked by words of wisdom. I was particularly struck by one remark. He said the North American Indian had failed to appropriate the life and civilization of his environment; and was dying out; but that the negro race had appropriated the life of his times, and lived and progressed upward and onward. Dr. J. C. Price is also a prince among orators of African blood. He clothed noble thoughts in vivid and picturesque language, and illuminated the whole by flashes of wit and humor that were perfectly irresistible. I never saw an audience wrought up into fervid enthusiasm in the way the delegates and visitors of that audience were stirred by these addresses. It was the white part of the audience that displayed the most excitement.

And yet there was a deep undertone of serious feeling pervading the whole proceedings. Laughter and tears were blended. One colored singer sang a solo with wonderful effect. It was a powerful religious appeal. I have never