

There are now in Japan about 250 churches with a membership of 25,000. Last year the baptisms were 7,000.

Japan has decided no longer to tax Christian churches, and they are therefore on an equality with Buddhist and Shinto temples.

Methodism in Victoria, British Columbia, is advancing. A few years ago a second church was erected, which is well attended. The old church, built when the mission was inaugurated, has become too small, and the congregation on a recent Sabbath pledged themselves to contribute \$20,000 toward rebuilding.

Revs. Dr. Shaw and J. Woodsworth, General Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba Conference, are spending several weeks in the Maritime Provinces in aid of the mission cause. Brother Woodsworth wants twenty-five additional labourers for the North-West.

The Methodist people have great demands made upon their liberality. The ecclesiastical year is rapidly advancing. Brethren on missions and poor circuits are necessarily greatly interested in the Conference collections. The Sustentation Fund is not the least deserving among those funds. Several ministers will probably receive less than \$500 this year from all sources. Let our readers remember this when the Sustentation collection is made. St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, recently gave a collection for a similar fund in the Presbyterian Church, which amounted to nearly \$2,000. How many hearts would rejoice if a few Methodist congregations would do likewise.

A brother in St. John's, Newfoundland, writes, "We raised \$1,824 on Thanksgiving Sunday (Jan. 21st) in this Circuit, St. John's West, toward our church debt, by plate collections. Good, wasn't it? George Street Church alone raised \$1,712 of it. A fortnight ago the other Circuit, East, had their Thanksgiving, and raised between \$1,100 and \$1,200."

the oldest Methodist minister in the world, died recently at Limerick, Ireland, after a brief illness. He was born in 1790, hence he was nearly one hundred years old. He retained his faculties to the last.

Dr. Lightfoot, Bishop of Durham, died from an attack of acute congestion of the lungs. He was only sixty-one years old. He was at once one of the greatest theological scholars and an eminent Bishop. Canon Liddon said, in his funeral sermon, that he "was one of the band of Cambridge scholars who have rolled back an assault upon the New Testament more formidable in many respects than any to which the title deeds of our holy religion have been exposed since the first age of Christianity." The Bishop's personal character was as beautiful as his scholarship was splendid. He gave his entire salary to the erection of churches in his diocese.

Rev. David Edgar, of Ballynahinch, after being in the pastorate sixty years, entered in rest December 8th. Two weeks before he and his wife attended a communion together. On the way home she caught cold, and died in a few days. He soon followed her, so that in death they were not divided.

We regret to learn of the death, at Brooklyn, N.Y., of the Rev. R. Duncan, a member of the New Brunswick Conference, who had been placed on the supernumerary list in 1885, and who for the past two years had been living in Brooklyn. Bro. Duncan was a native of St. John, was educated for the Methodist ministry, and was ordained in 1857. He filled, in order given, the following stations:—Bermuda, Halifax, Barington, N.S., Pownal, P.E.I., Bermuda, Point de Bute, Moncton, Carleton, Portland, Marysville and St. Stephen. He was at one time president of the N.B. and P.E.I. Conference and several times chairman of districts. He was a man of sterling merit and a faithful pastor, whose death will be sincerely mourned wherever he was known.

RECENT DEATHS.

Rev. R. T. Tracy, M.A., probably