

Christian faith. . . . Methodists, in common with all earnest evangelical Christians, will do well not to take up an ignorant and ill-considered attitude of suspicion toward men who study the Bible at least as carefully as the zealous and orthodox defender of traditional opinions.

#### THE PROGRESS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

At the last Ministerial Conference the Methodist Episcopal Church reported a total membership of 2,969,501. They have at the present time twenty-two theological institutions, fifty-one colleges and universities, fifty-two classical seminaries, and nine institutions exclusively for women, not including foreign mission-schools. In these institutions during the past year there were 51,606 students. The value of property devoted to education, together with the endowments, is about \$40,000,000.

The first place in general Church work is given to the Missionary Society. The Methodist Episcopal Church has entered the fields of Africa, South America, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, China, Bulgaria, and India. Splendid work has also been done by the Church Extension Society and by the Board of Education, which has aided 11,709 students since its origin. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, during the thirty-three years of its existence, has raised and distributed above \$6,250,000. The Woman's Home Missionary Society collects and expends about \$350,000 annually. Through the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, the orphanages and orphan asylums, the hospitals established in many cities—through these and other means, the great Methodist denomination is making her work tell in the United States. The publishing interest of the Church is divided into two great institutions, one located in New York, the other in Cincinnati. The entire proceeds of this vast business are devoted to the support of worn-out ministers and ministers' widows and orphans.

#### DEATH OF REV. A. W. NICOLSON.

In the death of the Rev. A. W. Nicolson, who passed unto his rest on June 28th, Methodism of the Maritime Provinces loses one of her veteran warriors. He was in his seventy-third year, and had given forty-seven years of his life to the ministry, active in both the pulpit and the press.

Of Scotch parentage, he came to Canada about 1856 and entered the work of the Methodist Church of Eastern British America. As a minister his style was clear, pungent, incisive, and glowing. He was masterly in exposition, a thorough student of the New Testament, ever seeking to know and reveal the mind of the Master.

He was a member of the first General Conference Hymn-Book Committee, and for many years a member of the Board of Regents, the governing body of Mount Allison University. He was for six years the editor of *The Wesleyan*. Executive qualities marked him as eligible for the office of Book Steward, and to that department he was appointed in 1873. Under his vigorous administration the institution was removed from the dingy Argyle Street premises to a conspicuous site on Granville Street.

It was fitting that he who had done such manifold service to the Church on earth should pass unto his rest while her bells were ringing on the Sabbath morning.

#### DEATH OF DR. BRETHOUR.

We regret to learn of the death of the Rev. Dr. Brethour, of Niagara Falls South, on October 3rd. Dr. Brethour gave forty-three years of his life to the service of the Methodist Church. He held such important appointments as Belleville, Windsor, Aylmer, Milton, Brantford, Burlington, Hamilton, Tillsonburg. In almost all of these he remained the full limit of time permissible, and left a grand record of successful work. He enjoyed all the honours which his Conference could give him. Financial Secretary, Journal Secretary, Chairman of District, seven times President of Conference, and six times delegate to the General Conference. He was for many years one of the most earnest, active and faithful of Canadian prohibition workers. During the successive temperance campaigns for the Scott Act, the Plebiscite, the Referendum, he was a wise counsellor and aggressive actor. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Dominion Alliance, and Secretary of the General Conference Temperance Committee, and did grand work in both these relations. At the time of his lamented death he was President also of the Welland County Prohibition Association. Dr. Brethour was characterized by his sound judgment, his wise counsels, his evangelistic earnestness. His loss will be greatly felt.