

THE General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is to be held in Chicago. Local Methodists will provide the Auditorium for the Conference. The gathering will cost them about \$8,000.

REV. E. A. SHELL, D.D., General Secretary of the League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, will sail from New York, about the middle of February, for a tour of Egypt and the Holy Land.

### Literary Lines.

REV. EGERTON R. YOUNG'S "By Canoe and Dog Train" has been translated into the German language and published in Germany.

THE latest story of Lord Kitchener is that when asked if he contemplated a narrative of the Sudan campaign, he answered, "No, no! do let us have one general who has not written a book!"

MR. GLAUSTONE once said: "The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it. To me it is always a source of lively satisfaction."

THE January number of the *Methodist Magazine* has an illustrated article of unusual interest on "An Experiment in Altruism," by James L. Hughes, that ought to be read by every employer of labor.

DR. GEORGE MACDONALD is in a very weak state of health. He still, however, greatly enjoys music and is the loving care of his family. The story by Dr. Macdonald published in the *Christmas Sketch* is in all probability the last thing he will write.

A LITTLE album which Alfred Tennyson presented to a fellow-undergraduate when at Cambridge, was sold in London the other day for \$16. This price was, perhaps, not excessive, for the little book contained the original manuscript of "St Agnes' Eve," as well as two other poems in the poet's own handwriting.

JULES VERNE, the indefatigable French author, now seventy years old, has achieved the probably unique feat of having written books that exceed in number, by six, the number of years he has lived. Perhaps Miss Braddon, among English writers, with fifty-five novels to her name in thirty-seven years, most nearly approaches this marvellous record of industry.

OUR Book-Room has arranged to issue a Canadian Copyright Edition of a new story by Mrs. Kingsley, entitled "The Cross Triumphant." The enormous sale of her first story, "Titus," and the popular sale of her later stories, "Stephen" and "Paul," have made this lady's name a household word in Canada. Sunday School libraries should be on the lookout for the new story.

A SECOND edition of Miss FitzGibbon's admirable biography of her grandfather, Lieut.-Col. James FitzGibbon, the "hero of Beaver Dam," has just been published by our Book-Room. Few books can be placed in the hands of the young that teach more striking lessons of loyalty to allegiance, fidelity to trust, and fearless devotion to duty than the life of this noted soldier who served Canada so well in her hour of peril.

GRANT ALLEN—one of Canada's distinguished sons abroad, whom we admire more as a naturalist than as a novelist—has just written a book of fascinating interest entitled "Flashlights on Nature," the Canadian market for which has been secured by our enterprising Book Steward. In this book Mr. Allen tells of his vast number of Nature's wonders in animal and plant life. Mr. Allen's telling descriptions are admirably supplemented by one hundred illustrations by Mr. Frederick Enock, himself an enthusiastic naturalist who will often watch for hours to portray the bursting of a chrysalis or some other of Nature's operations.

### Canadian Personals.

REV. T. ALBERT MOORE, of Hamilton, is trying to reach the non-churchgoers, by holding services every Sunday afternoon in the Opera House. They are largely attended.

MISS LOTTIE WIGGINS is meeting with good success as lecturer and organizer for the W. C. T. U. Her experience in Christian Endeavor work will prove valuable in this new sphere.

CROSSLEY and HUNTER are now holding meetings in the People's Temple, Boston. *Zion's Herald* publishes their pictures, and gives a very appreciative account of the opening services.

REV. J. D. P. KNOX is giving stereoscopic sermons in the James' Bay Church, Victoria, B.C. The church is full, and many are seen at service who have not been inside a place of worship for years.

SINCE our article on St. Thomas was put into type, Amasa Wood, Esq., one of the best known residents of the Railway City, has passed away. Mr. Wood did not wait until death to be benevolent, but gave away large sums during his life. He expended



THE LATE AMASA WOOD, ESQ.

over \$15,000 in the splendid hospital, which he gave to the city of St. Thomas. Half a dozen churches were erected in various parts of Elgin County, through his generosity, and one in Japan which he rebuilt when it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Wood was exceedingly kind to the poor, and to the Indians, who had no better friend. He lived to the ripe age of eighty-six, and during his declining years found a great deal of pleasure in doing good.

REV. WILLIAM SAVAGE is one of the most active young Leaguers we know of. He has addressed twenty Leagues in different places since Conference, besides preaching nearly every Sunday. Pretty good for a man over eighty!

TONG CHEU THOM, our Chinese missionary at New Westminster, supported by the Toronto West District League, raised about \$200 among his fellow-countrymen in San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, etc., for the rebuilding of his burned-out mission premises.

DR. and MRS. KILBORN, our medical missionaries in West China, are now on furlough in Canada. They were accorded a reception by the Toronto East District League, which supports them. They will be kept busy during the remainder of the winter attending missionary meetings at various points.

### General Religious Items.

DURING the reign of the Queen the British and Foreign Bible Society has issued 196 new translations of the Bible, or of portions of it.

THERE are now in London seventy-three Young Men's Christian Associations, with a total membership of 13,697. There are now in the world 6,466 centres—an increase of 234—with a membership of 545,000.

"I FIND not how, in any words which I have been able to frame with tongue or pen," says Bishop Foss, "to make any statement strong enough to voice my own burning conviction that the Lord Jesus Christ is taking India."

LAST year the railroads of America contributed over \$150,000 towards the support of railroad branches of the Young Men's Christian Association throughout the country, and the officials of the roads that have so liberally donated for that cause state that the money thus expended has been a paying investment.

SPAIN is not altogether Roman Catholic. Recent statistics show that there are now in the country 56 Protestant pastors, 35 evangelists, and 16 helpers. There are 116 Protestant schools, with 61 male and 78 female teachers, who instruct 2,500 boys and 2,100 girls. There are 80 Sunday Schools with 3,250 scholars.

THE new Metropolitan Tabernacle, in London, which is being built, will be much like the old one, with which the honored name of Spurgeon was so long and wonderfully associated. About the main difference will be the omission of the top gallery. It will still have a large seating capacity, accommodating between 4,000 and 5,000 people.

### What They Say.

HERE are a few brief extracts from letters, recently received, showing how our first issue has been received:

REV. DR. WITHROW says: "I am delighted with the first number of the ERA. It is something to be proud of."

REV. PROF. ANDREWS, of Sackville, sends congratulations, and expresses the opinion that "the paper will surely succeed."

REV. J. T. CALDWELL, M.A., sends a post card bearing these words: "Delighted with the ERA. It is the best Young People's paper I have seen."

REV. JOSEPH EDGE, London, writes: "I am perfectly delighted with your effort. I must confess I had no expectation of receiving such a paper."

MR. H. P. MOORE, of the *Acton Free Press*, writes: "I have pleasure indeed in extending my congratulations. The ERA is far beyond my expectations."

REV. R. N. BURN, B.A., of Orillia, says: "I congratulate you upon the general get-up of the CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA. I like the orderly arrangement, and the bright spicy nature of the matter."

REV. DR. POTTS sends the following cheering note: "Let me thank you most heartily for the first issue of the CANADIAN ERA. It is a very interesting paper and likely to supply an important need."

REV. G. W. KERRY, B.A., says: "The new paper is all right. God speed it on its mission. I trust that it may be read by many of the old friends of the Church. It will be a tonic to keep the heart young."

REV. A. LANGFORD, D.D., of Orangeville, writes: "I wish to thank you for the bright, interesting, new paper you have given our young people. It is just what we need, and is justly entitled to the generous support of the Church."