

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, D.D.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

General Superintendent.—The annual Conferences in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have all been held. The General Superintendent could only be present at Toronto, Hamilton, and London Conferences, and only for a few days at each. Before going to the Conferences in the Maritime Provinces, he made a hasty trip to Nashville, Tenn., where he preached the baccalaureate sermon at Vanderbilt University. The Southerners were pleased with him and regretted that his stay was so short. The addresses by Dr. Carman at the opening of the Conferences which he attended were, as usual, comprehensive and powerful, and the ordination sermons which he preached at Hamilton and London Conferences were appropriate and full of Gospel truth. The several Conferences were held at Toronto, Hamilton, Strathroy, Picton, Smith's Falls and Victoria respectively.

Presidents and Secretaries.—The following brethren were elected to the offices of president and secretary in their respective Conferences. Toronto—Revs. M. L. Pearson and G. K. Adams. Hamilton—Revs. W. Kettlewell and S. Selvery. London—Revs. W. Williams, D.D., and R. J. Treleven. Bay of Quinte—Revs. F. B. Stratton and T. J. Edmison, B.A., B.D. Montreal—Revs. J. Armstrong and F. G. Lett. British Columbia—Revs. S. Cleaver and J. B. Howell.

Jubilee Sermon.—An incident occurred at the Montreal Conference which was of more than ordinary interest, the venerable Richard Whiting preaching a jubilee sermon. He had borne an honoured name among his brethren all these years, and had filled various important positions, such as chairman of district and president of Conference, and now he told of the way God had led him all these years, and exhibited the first ticket which he received when he joined "the people called Methodists."

Deaths.—There was a large mortality reported among the ministers. Not less

than thirteen had been called from labour to rest, some, like Fathers Shaler and Graham, had long been venerable with age; others, such as J. C. Slater, W. Lund, T. Cleworth, J. Fairchilds, S. Blanchard and J. H. Andrews, had been retired a few years. W. Hall, J. W. Annis, D. G. Sutherland, E. D. Lewis and W. Torrance were in the active work, and might be said to have died at their post. They were blameless in life, calm and peaceful in death. Their comrades in arms bore testimony to their fidelity in preaching the glorious Gospel.

Ministerial Character.—Happily there were few cases which required disciplinary action. One brother in the Montreal Conference was deposed from the ministry for refusing to go to the station assigned him in 1894, and for acting very irregularly in holding evangelistic services in various places without the consent of the ministers in charge, thus creating divisions in the churches and doing much injury. A few probationers, having acted irregularly, were dropped in silence; and one, found guilty of immorality, was expelled.

Statistics.—It is not an easy task to obtain correct statistics, but as far as we have been able to examine the returns there have been received into full connection and ordained not less than seventy-five probationers; and 130 candidates received on probation. So large was the supply that all vacancies in the ministry through superannuation and removal by death, were filled. There is no scarcity of labourers, but there is great lack of means for their support. In one Conference where there are 150 ministers and probationers, the total deficiency of salary reported was \$3,999.

Governor-General.—As usual there were several welcome visitors to the various Conferences. At Hamilton the Earl of Aberdeen was among the number; and his Excellency, on being invited to the platform by the president, kindly acceded to the request, and spoke a few kind words to the Conference. He was ac-