

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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From the Minutes of the late Conference we learn that the number of members in England, Ireland, the mission field, and the affiliated Conferences of France, South Africa and the West Indies, is 559,382, and the number on trial is 46,045. The number of young persons in junior society classes is 60,801, and there are 24,875 lay class leaders and 16,038 local preachers. The number of ministers, including supernumeraries, is 2,897. The number on trial is an encouraging fact. There are 3,569 Bands of Hope, with 370,681 enrolled members. The number of Sunday-schools is 6,926, an increase of 28 for the year. The number of scholars is 932,888, an increase of 4,382. The number of day scholars is 180,840. The total cost of the Sunday-schools exceeds \$451,000, and of the day-schools, \$1,265,000.

There have been expended on the erection of new chapels and reduction of debts, \$1,480,895. Other churches and ministers' houses are about to be erected at an estimated cost of \$1,431,970.

Adult Bible classes are now a valuable agency in connection with evangelistic movements. Those at Bristol, Hanley, Wolverhampton and Manchester occupy first rank. In one village chapel near Stockport 200 working people meet every Sunday afternoon to study the Bible. Great good has resulted from all these.

Rev. Henry Smart on leaving Manchester received a valuable testimonial in appreciation of his labours, not only as a minister, but for his services in connection with sanitary reform and other social questions. At the meeting at which the presentation was made, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford sent one of his

clergy to represent him. The Manchester *Guardian* said: "It is something to hear a Catholic prelate doing public honour to a Methodist minister and a Catholic priest taking part in a meeting held in a Methodist school-room to say farewell to him."

Rev. Peter Thompson is aided in his mission at the East End, London, by a band of thirty or forty ladies and is daily widening its area. There is a Home for girls at Blackheath, where food, clothing, and residence are provided for street waifs. A dispensary is attached to the mission, where 10,000 patients have been treated gratuitously by the mission doctor, who has also paid 1,000 visits to the homes of poor invalids.

Dr. Bowman Stevenson informed the recent Conference that this was the twenty-first year of the establishment of his "Homes" for destitute children, and this year the first instance had occurred of one of his lads passing into the ministry.

The centenary of John Wesley's death is to be celebrated in England. Mr. R. W. Parks wants a fund of \$500,000 to be raised for the erection of a Centenary Hall in London, and that \$500,000 more should be employed in erecting ten great provincial centre-halls, similar to Oldham Street, Manchester; and that another amount of \$250,000 should be raised for the extension of village Methodism.

The committee appointed by Conference to carry forward the movement have resolved to spend \$40,000 or \$50,000 in building a tomb over Mr. Wesley's grave, and setting aside Wesley's house as a museum of Methodist antiquities, and to thoroughly restore City Road Chapel, making it worthy of the Mother Church of Methodism in Great