

unity—if not organic, at least federal union. They will unite in petitioning the Dominion Government re the Chinese question.

Book-Room and Publishing House.

It was very gratifying to learn that both in the East and West there had been a steady advance all along the line. The affairs of the Halifax establishment were steadily improving and the grant of credit to the amount of \$10,000 was continued. The total profits of the quadrennium exceeded \$90,000, of which \$26,300 had been appropriated to the Superannuation Fund, being an increase of \$4,300 over the preceding term.

The *Guardian* and *Wesleyan* are both to be reduced to the price of one dollar, and two pages in each are to be reserved for Epworth League and young people's work.

The *MAGAZINE* and Sunday-school publications have had an extensive circulation, so that during the quadrennium 200,000 000 pages of good, wholesome literature had been sent forth, every page of which was instinct with religious influence. In four years the receipts of these publications had been over \$200,000.

Discipline.

At former General Conferences the report of the Committee on this subject had always excited much interest, and consumed a great amount of time. When it became known that this year the number of suggestions for amendments, etc., might be styled "legion," we anticipated that the present would be as the past and much more abundant. The report was submitted, and the gratifying intelligence was communicated that to more than one hundred recommendations the Committee had voted *non-concurrence*. The alterations adopted were chiefly verbal.

Missionary Affairs.

Considering the almost universal depression of business it is a pleasure to record the fact, that during the quadrennium there has been a steady advance. The only decline has been

last year. The Woman's Missionary Society has also made a steady advance, having now an income of \$37,974, a gain in four years of \$15,667. When the General Board met to make the appropriations for the current year there was a difficult problem to solve. Applications were made from every field for an increase of grants amounting to \$10,000, and a depleted income, and as the Board is not allowed to appropriate more than the income of the year next preceding, it was clear that \$230,000 was the entire amount that could be appropriated. This meant cutting down. The General Secretary, Dr. Sutherland, said he would take \$500 less for his allowance than he had taken the last few years. The Committee on Salaries had also recommended a reduction of \$300 on the salary of the assistant. Other expenses had been reduced by lessening the number of members for the General Board and the executive; still other reductions of necessity had to be made, to make the appropriations harmonize with the income.

Rev. John Shaw, D.D., was re-appointed assistant.

Rev. Dr. McDonald was re-appointed treasurer and co-responding member for Japan. A joint committee of General Board, and the Woman's Society, was appointed to to adjudicate matters in Japan to prevent the agents coming in conflict with each other.

Fire Insurance.

Some of the Churches in England have insurance companies of their own, which is not only a great saving in expenditure but also brings considerable revenue to the funds of the respective Churches. The Church property under the care of the General Conference exceeds in value \$14,000,000, one half of which is not insured. A commission was appointed, consisting of a few well-known business men, who are to look into this matter and report the result of their deliberations to the General Conference Special Committee, with power to act.