

The combined Methodism of the British empire represented at the Ecumenical shows 14,475 churches; 4,028 ministers; 39,599 local preachers; 784,738 members; 2,156,209 church sittings.

The increase during the past ten years amongst the Wesleyan has been 21.02 per cent., and the increase in the other Methodist Churches in Great Britain will average about 10 per cent., while the increase in the population at the same time is only about 11 per cent.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

It fell to Bishop Fowler's lot to read a paper at the Ecumenical respecting the status of Methodism in the Western section. He said: "Methodism never whipped a quaker, nor burned a witch, nor banished a Baptist. Her character must be counted her status." The increase of Methodism in the United States has been very remarkable. In 1784 there was but one Conference, with 33 preachers and 14,938 members. Now there are 300 Conferences, 31,765 itinerants, 30,090 local preachers, 5,000,000 members, 5,000,000 Sunday-school scholars, 55,000 churches, 15,000 parsonages, church property worth \$200,000,000. The population of the United States in 1800 was 5,308,485; of these 1,227,052 were Protestants. The Methodists in 1800 numbered 54,692. The population of the country now is 62,622,250, of whom 21,757,071 are Protestants. There are in this population at the present moment 4,930,240 Methodists.

The contributions to missions has increased the last ten years \$50,000 per year.

Several Annual Conferences have lately been held, the reports of which contained many items of interest. In the California Conference, the Hawaiian Islands, 2,500 miles out, were made into a district, of which the Rev. A. N. Fisher was appointed overseer.

Some of the bishops occasionally experience some remarkable incidents. When Bishop Newman was at Japan he experienced considerable

trouble in distributing the native pastors among the churches. Finally he said, "If any of you think you can do this better than I, let them stand up." Four of the pastors promptly arose.

The Japan Methodists are calling loudly for a resident bishop.

Among the many *Christian Advocates* that are published, that of New York doubtless takes precedence. Its profits are \$30,000 per year, besides paying all its own expenses.

Rev. Dr. J. B. Hamilton is labouring very earnestly to secure a better support for aged ministers. He has been visiting the Conferences for this purpose. Some of his remarks deserve consideration by many even in Canada, though we believe that Canadian Methodists support their superannuates better than the M. E. Church does theirs. Dr. Hamilton said: "Sixteen Conferences gave less than one cent per member to these veterans; twenty-five less than five cents, and twenty-four less than ten cents." He referred to the honourable position of Gladstone, "the man of the age," as he said, and asked what would be thought of England if she were to replace him by a young man, saying, "Behold, thou art old." He argued that years were vastly advantageous to the ministry, in that thereby was brought to the service experience. He asserted that the ministry was the only profession in which years were at a discount. In the legal practice it was not so, but the reverse. In law or medicine no young man can replace an old one. In all affairs of business experience counts for something. But in the ministry, where age and experience would count for the most, it does not count. Is this just? Some day the young man will be old. Be considerate of the old men."

De Pauw Methodist University has been promised a \$200,000 building for its theological department, in honour of Bishop Bowman.

Dr. Joseph F. Berry, editor of the *Epworth Herald*, in his address to the Conferences, said: "At the first anniversary there were 1,900 chap-