

the founder of the missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church both in India and in Mexico. The missions thus planted in these countries have become great and stalwart trees which have already borne much fruit. Dr. Butler went to India in 1856, and was there during the dreadful period of the Mutiny. Many in Canada will remember with almost painful interest the vivid descriptions Dr. Butler gave of the trying scenes of that time. We once met Dr. Butler in the pleasant home of Dr. Abel Stevens in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was for a time preaching in the Methodist church of that city. He impressed us as a man of great faith and courage, of intense devotion to the service of his Master, of remarkable organizing ability, and large literary gifts.

Rev. Dr. W. R. Lowrie was another saint of God who led multitudes of souls into the kingdom of Christ. He died very suddenly in the last week of August, after having for some time led the young people's meetings at Ocean Grove. Dr. Lowrie was born in Scotland, came early to the United States, and was one of the great pastors of American Methodism. Extensive revivals followed his preaching everywhere.

Rev. Dr. Alexander Balmain Bruce was one of the most distinguished scholars and divines of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. He fought valiantly for the defence of Christianity. His writings on "The Chief End of Revelation," on "The Training of the Twelve," and other works, exhibit intense moral earnestness and a courage of his convictions which sometimes provoked severe criticism. This, however, he lived down, and his memory is honoured as that of a true soldier of Jesus Christ.

In the death of Dr. William Wright, editorial superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Christian scholarship lost an able exponent. Dr. Wright was a native of Ireland, a member of the Irish Presbyterian Church. What gave special oriental bent to his studies was ten years' missionary service in Damascus. He travelled widely throughout the East, acquiring an intimate acquaintance of its languages and institutions which specially fitted him for his editorial work. Among his best known books are "The Empire of the Hittites," and "Palmyra and Zenobia," recently reviewed in these pages.

## ITEMS.

The Wesleyan Methodist society has 363 mission stations and 2,355 preaching places. Its staff of 345 missionaries is supported by 2,903 schoolmasters and other paid agents. Its income is \$28,000 more than two years ago.

Sixteen German foreign missionary societies employ 750 German and 121 native missionaries at 1471 stations, having pastoral charge of 110,000 communicants and 70,000 children in schools. Total receipts about \$1,000,000.

It is an interesting fact, says the *North-Western Christian Advocate*, that the two foremost leaders of the opposing forces in the controversy in the Established Church of England are laymen—Viscount Halifax of the ritualist party, and Sir William Vernon Harcourt of the anti-ritualists. The former is described as "the real unmitred primate of England." The two archbishops are strong men, but they have not grappled with the trouble in the Church as has Lord Halifax, who has been the leader in the debate in the House of Lords and before the country.

An article of great interest, by Rev. W. B. FitzGerald, under the title, "The Preachers of the People," appears in the *Guild Magazine*. Mr. FitzGerald has quoted some most interesting facts with regard to the local preachers of Methodism, which will be of great interest to our readers. He gives the date of the earliest printed Plan as 1777. The article is illustrated by two interesting diagrams, and the following statistics are given of Methodist local preachers for the year 1898:

Wesleyan Methodist Church . . .	17,708
Primitive Methodist Church . . .	16,617
United Methodist Free Church . .	3,409
Bible Christians . . . . .	1,900
Methodist New Connexion . . . .	1,203
Wesleyan Reform Union . . . . .	506

Total . . . . . 41,343

The latest returns for the Methodist Churches throughout the entire world give the total number of lay preachers at 101,643. These are men who inherit the spirit of the evangelical revival, who preach the same truths that Wesley taught, and count it their highest honour to spread scriptural holiness through the land.