

BIBLE CHRISTIAN AND OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES.

The new hymn-book which has been in course of preparation during the past two years is now being published. It contains one thousand hymns.

A new steam launch has been despatched from England for the Primitive Methodist Mission in West Africa. The name of the launch is *La Paz*—"Peace." Mr. Bately, a young mechanic, who is to take charge of the working of the launch, is a passenger on the steamer which conveys the launch to its destination. The use of the little steamer will save the missionaries much exposure and danger on the West Coast.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The statistical report, as given in the year-book, shows: Annual Conferences, 110; Itinerant Preachers, 14,135; Local Preachers, 14,132; Lay Members, 2,093,935; Sunday-school Scholars, 2,016,181; Value of Church Property, \$80,812,792; Value of Parsonages, \$12,908,047. Total value of Church Property, \$93,720,839.

The Book Concern, in New York, will celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary this year, and has donated \$100,000 to Superannuated Ministers. During the year the fine structure of brick and granite, in Fifth Avenue and Twentieth Street, valued at \$1,000,000, one of the finest publishing houses in America, will be opened. In the one hundred years of its history it has paid to Conference claimants about \$2,000,000.

The fifth session of the Japan Conference was held in Tokio in August. Bishop Fowler presided. A committee of one from the Mission was appointed to meet a similar committee from the Methodist Church of Canada, and from the Methodist Episcopal Church South, who, with two Japanese are to frame a discipline and rules for a United Methodist Church of Japan.

Inter-denominational services were held in Old John Street Church, New York, during the month of January. The first sermon was

preached, on New Year's Day, by Rev. Dr. Rainsford, Rector of St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church—a sign of the times.

In the Starr Street Methodist Church, Baltimore, no musical instrument of any kind is allowed, and the men and women sit apart. It has been so for twenty-five years, and should the order of things be changed for a single occasion, the church building and grounds would revert to the heirs of Wesley Starr, who so provided in his will. He also left an annuity of \$1,200 for the support of the church. The bequest also stipulates that no festivals, entertainments or theatrical performances of any kind whatsoever shall be given in the building or elsewhere for its aid.

The *Union Signal* says: Not long ago a gentleman who had given Mrs. Bishop Simpson the ground for a Children's Orphanage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, told her that if in four weeks she would bring to the bank, at nine a.m., a check for \$10,000 dollars toward the new building he would give her one for \$20,000. The indomitable woman set to work, advanced as she is in years, and by the help of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, to which she went with personal appeal, secured the sum, and was promptly on hand at the designated time and place, whereupon Colonel Bennett gave her \$5,000 more than he had promised.

Monitory words were spoken by two bishops at a recent Boston Preachers' Meeting. Bishop Vincent directed attention to the growing aggressiveness and spiritual earnestness of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. He regarded it as a spiritual despotism, a tyranny that menaces their free institutions, and which will destroy them, unless the people—especially the Methodist people—unite to resist its aggressiveness. "Romanism," he says, "is more afraid of Methodism than of any other Church. God help us to give it reason to fear us." Bishop Merrill spoke of the Roman hierarchy as planning deeply, broadly, patiently, to get control, if