

principles rather than minute rules of conduct.

Mr. John T. Moore, on the contrary, urged the need of the Church maintaining its standard in these regards. He knew there were many who would sell body and soul to get into that which is called society, but God forbid that the Methodists should cater to this sentiment. When people were found who advocated theatres, which were often the vestibule of perdition, and cards, which were the implements of the devil, and which were to be found in every hell-hole in this country, it was necessary to tell them that the Methodist Church did not tolerate these forms of sin. The home that admitted cards was committing a terrible wrong, was putting into the hands of the young the instruments of gamblers and blacklegs. This note which it was sought to eliminate was not a reckless denunciation of innocent amusements, but a wise and kindly enumeration of those things which were harmful.

S. F. Lazier, Q.C., contended that young people were prevented from coming into the Church by the existence of this rule, and that, instead, they joined the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches. Dr. Crothers, in a stirring speech, maintained the right of the Church to place safeguards around its young people. Mr. Edward Gurney, seconded by Dr. Burwash, moved the following substitute for the note in the Discipline :

"These general rules are to be interpreted in harmony with the teachings of the New Testament, which call for the consecration of our whole life to the service of Christ, and which make the Christian law of truth, purity, justice and charity supreme in the heart of all Christians."

Mr. Gurney argued strongly in favour of larger personal liberty. Chancellor Burwash argued also in favour of cultivating a more intelligent knowledge of what was right and what was wrong. It was keeping the people in a state of tutelage, of mere bondage to specific commandments, to specify particulars, instead of raising them to the great moral principles which should regulate and guide lives and make them self-governing.

Dr. Maclaren argued strongly for the maintenance of the Discipline as it stood. He was not content that the Methodist Church of to-day should be satisfied with thundering against the sins which were prevalent in Judea two thousand years ago and remaining dumb to our own sins. In reply to the statement that this legis-

lation was sending the young people into other Churches, he referred to the Dominion census of 1891, wherein it was shown that while the Roman Catholics and Anglicans, with large accessions from immigration, had relatively decreased in numbers, and while the Presbyterians had hardly held their own, the Methodists had made the most marked increase. Lest they should say that this might be so in the country but was not so in the cities, he called attention to the fact that in the ten years between 1881 and 1891 the Methodist population in the cities had trebled itself. The Conference by a very large majority decided to maintain the restrictive clauses.

THE ELECTIONS.

It is significant of the appreciation by the Methodist Church of the services rendered by the General Conference officers, that no change in their personnel has been made. The popular Book Stewards at Toronto and Halifax, Revs. Dr. Briggs and S. F. Huestis, received an almost unanimous vote. The Rev. Dr. Dewart, who so long occupied the *Guardian* tripod, received 70 votes for the editorship, but Dr. Courtice received 126, with a few scattered votes. Dr. Sutherland, who has held the difficult office of General Secretary of Missions for over a score of years, was returned by a decisive vote. Dr. Henderson was elected to the office of Associate Secretary. The following brethren were elected unanimously, a ballot being cast for them by the Secretary of the Conference: Rev. Dr. Potts, Secretary of Education; Rev. A. C. Crews, Secretary of Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues; Rev. J. C. Woods-worth, Superintendent of Missions in the North-West; the Rev. Dr. Griffin and Mr. Edward Gurney, Treasurers of the Superannuation Fund; Dr. Sutherland and Hon. J. C. Aikins, Treasurers of the Missionary Society; and Dr. Potts and Senator Sanford, Treasurers of the Educational Society. The Editor of this Magazine was re-elected to the position which he has occupied for twenty-four years, by a vote of 207 out of 218 ballots cast.

THE FUTURE OF THE METHODIST MAGAZINE AND REVIEW.

The Editor by his almost unanimous re-election has received a mandate from the Methodist Church to make the periodicals committed to his care still more deserving the patronage of our people. He has ideals and efforts to reach them in