

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, D.D.

THIS Quadrennium Assembly of Episcopal Methodism was held at Omaha, Nebraska, and was in session a month. This was the first time the Conference had met so far westward. It is just one hundred years since the Church took the Episcopal form of government. At every succeeding Quadrennium there seems to be a growing interest in the proceedings. Though the largest available building is invariably secured for the various sessions, it is a matter of great difficulty to secure even standing-room for all who wish to avail themselves of the privilege of attending.

This year the Rev. W. F. Moulton, D.D., probably the most learned minister in the parent body of Methodism, crossed the Atlantic to greet the child which has outgrown the parent. As intimated in another place, our General Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carman, conveyed the greetings of his Canadian brethren, and the Rev. Dr. Tigert came from the Sunny South, to bid his brethren of the North God-speed. Various other fraternal messengers were also present.

The number of delegates in attendance was nearly 500. Of this number, sixty were coloured, two of whom were from Africa. They came from India, Africa, Japan, Mexico, all the states and territories of the States, and various European countries. The lay delegate from Japan is Yasuji Ninomiya, a silk merchant of Yokohama. He was converted in San Francisco about fourteen years ago.

The lay representatives from the various Annual Conferences belong to different classes, such as governors of States, judges, members of Congress, presidents and professors of various seats of learning, medical men, and several of the mercantile community. They represent a membership of not less than 2,300,000.

The reports presented from the various organizations of the Church contain indubitable evidence of most marvellous progress, though doubtless the increase of missionary contributions is the most marvellous of all. In 1884 the total receipts were \$735,225.26, but in 1891 they were \$1,251,059.37, or \$3,093.87 for every day in the year.

The missionary bishops, Rev. W. Taylor, D.D., from Africa, and Rev. J. Thoburn, D.D., from India, were present, and produced wonderful excitement as they detailed briefly what had occurred in their respective fields during the last four years. Bishop Taylor gave the Conference an object lesson by exhibiting a little girl whom he had brought from Africa. She had been rescued from a life of polygamy to which millions of girls in Africa are doomed, if they are not rescued by Christianity. This noble man returned \$5,500 of his salary in three years to the Missionary Society.

Bishop Thoburn wants the work in India to be divided into five conferences, and he declares that 25,000 are on the eve of embracing Christianity. During the past four years, 10,000 natives have abandoned idolatry. Two Canadian brethren are among his ablest helpers, Revs. Messrs. Messmore and Warne.

The Deaconess' Work is worthy of commendation. No less than nine hospitals have been established during the last four years, and seven of them are in charge of devoted women and are doing a grand work.

The Epworth League, which has been so recently organized, has no less than 4,000 local leagues with 400,000 members.

An enthusiastic public meeting was held on behalf of the American University which is to be established at Washington. Several thousand dollars were subscribed. Among the munificent gifts given at Washington