

IRISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

This Conference was held in Belfast, and was in session most of two weeks in June; 128 ministers and 118 laymen were present. The former held their session first. The Rev. Dr. Young and others were present from England. A daily *Advocate* was published, which contained full reports of the proceedings, and also of the sermons preached before the Conference. The Rev. Wesley Guard was appointed to represent Ireland at the next General Conference, to be held in New York in May, 1887.

Many of the Circuit reports were very gratifying. After filling up 500 vacancies occasioned by emigration, and 800 from various other causes, there was a net increase in the membership of 339. This increase is considered very satisfactory, considering the difficulties through which the country has been passing.

The Conference gratefully accepted Sir. W. McArthur's magnificent offer of \$20,000 for the purpose of creating a fund of \$50,000 to be applied to the education of ministers' daughters at the Methodist College, Belfast. The Conference resolved also to raise another \$25,000 to aid Wesley College. The Queen's Jubilee Fund of \$50,000 was started at a public meeting, and \$8,500 was promised on the spot.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CONFERENCE.

This Conference was held at Stockport, near Manchester. No Methodist Conference was ever held in this town before. The Mayor invited all the members of the Conference to a luncheon, and one of the aldermen tendered them a garden party. The Rev. J. Ketson Jackson was elected President. The Revs. J. Medlicraft and H. Piggin retire from the "active work"; the former spent some years in Canada. Dr. Ward returns to circuit work after being seven years editor and book steward, and Dr. Watts, well known to many in Canada, ascends the tripod. Dr. Stacey and Mr. Hulme were not able to attend Conference. The

ministers and other friends sent the former a cheque for \$2,500 as a proof of their sympathy.

The Connexion is prospering; there is a net increase of 182 members. The China Mission has been a great success. Two mission stations in Australia are to be united to some other Methodist body. Four young ministers were ordained. Two missionaries are to be sent to China.

The discussion on Methodist Union occupied much time, and caused considerable acerbity. Leading ministers and laymen ably argued in defence of the positions they maintained. The amendments that were moved in opposition to Union were both voted down, and the resolution favouring Union as of Divine leading and influence was carried by a large majority.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

This annual assembly met at Scarborough, the Rev. Thos. Whitehead being chosen President. Archdeacon Blunt sent a letter to the President regretting that absence from home prevented him giving hospitality to some members of Conference. The Vicar of All Saints' invited the entire Conference, 200 ministers and laymen, to breakfast with him, and Lieut.-Col. Steble imitated the example of the Vicar also, and entertained the whole Conference at breakfast. This is something unusual and is practical fraternity. The membership of the Connexion is now 191,000; the increase for the year is only two. The reports presented respecting the various departments of the Church contain evidences of prosperity.

The Book Room has done a good business. The total issue of its publications exceeds two millions; the report states that the profits amount to \$20,000, \$17,000 of which was donated to funds for superannuated ministers. An orphanage is to be established, which is a bold enterprise. Fourteen ministers have died during the year, most of whom had been in the ministry forty years; twenty-four candidates for the minis-