

of what was known as Mason and Dixon's line were placed under the care of the Church South, and in 1846 the first General Conference of the new organization was held. Bishop Soule, though a Northern man, and a native of Maine, went with the Southern division, and he and Bishop Andrew were the only members of the Episcopacy that did so.

There are now in the Methodist Church South 990,994 members, 4,406 ministers, and 5,943 local preachers. During the past quadrennium, the accessions to all these have been larger than during any former similar period, being a clear gain of 130,277 members.

The Sabbath-schools number 10,569, with 73,006 teachers, and 558,205 scholars. This is a gain for four years of 1,259 schools, 10,564 teachers, and 95,884 scholars. The circulation of the Sabbath-school periodicals is over 2,000,000.

The Publishing House has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the General Conference of 1878. More than \$250,000 liabilities have been discharged, and the amount of indebtedness is now only \$80,000. Several standard books have been published and better facilities for doing the business of the House have been secured.

*Missions.*—Domestic missions are established in all the forty Conferences of the Church. The foreign missions are in China, Mexico, and Brazil. There is also an Indian Mission Conference. In this mission there are six academies of high grade for the education specially of Indian children. The missionary income during the past four years has more than doubled. The Woman's Missionary Board has also been a powerful agency in mission work. It is expected that the income for the present current year will be \$230,000, to which must be added the sums raised for domestic missions and for church extension, which will make a grand total of not less than \$785,000.

*Institutions of Learning.*—There are several of these within the bounds of the Church. Vanderbilt

University, however, surpasses all others. It is situated at Nashville, Tenn., and is worth more than \$600,000, with an endowment fund of \$900,000. The teaching staff numbers over fifty professors and teachers, and it has nearly 600 students.

During the last quadrennium the centennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church has been celebrated. The Board asked for a thank-offering of \$2,000,000. More than this amount was raised, including what was contributed for local purposes.

This Church has always taken deep interest in the coloured people, and soon after the war, when the coloured M. E. Church was organized with 26,000 members, the bishops of the M. E. Church South ordained the bishops of the coloured Church, and the Church donated a large amount of property to them. There are at least four bodies of coloured Methodists in the United States, numbering about 1,000,000. As there are no essential differences dividing them it would be a grand point gained to bring them together in one organization.

*The Personnel of the General Conference.*—The bishops, five in number, are the only ex-officio members, but they merely preside on successive days, and rule in questions of law. They are an able body of men, very prompt in their decisions, but always courteous to the humblest member in the body. They never manifest the least sensitiveness when their decisions are appealed from, but immediately call out, "Shall the decision of the chair be maintained? If so, say 'Aye,' if not, say 'No.' " As soon as the response is made, the chair announces what it is and the business proceeds.

There are only three survivors of the General Conference of 1844. Dr. J. B. McFerrin is one. He has been called "The Old War Horse," and has been more than sixty years in the ministry and has filled every office of the Church except that of bishop. He has attended every General Conference, beginning with that of 1836. He is a grand old man,