

nances.—At the Nottingham Conference in July the present adverse balance of £20,000 was the subject of a warm discussion. The representatives of the Committee strongly repudiated the charge of blame which has been made. Much of the criticism and unrest the Rev. Marshall Randles considered to be the result of a ground swell following the events of two years ago. No new policy was advocated for the removal of the debt save the appointment of adult collectors, and the responsibility of district sub-committees to a central committee, and the arousing of fresh interest in the claims of foreign missions. For the fair name of the influential Wesleyan community, whose servants abroad and officials in London are not surpassed, the obligation of extinguishing the heavy debt is an immediate duty. A communication was read to the Conference announcing the death of the Rev. Thornley Smith, of London, formerly a missionary pioneer in South Africa, where he successfully labored half a century ago. He was the author of several works relating to missions.

Roman Catholics in England and India—a Contrast.—Much surprise was caused at the Annual Conference of Catholic Young Men's Societies of Great Britain, lately assembled in Wigan, Lancashire, by a paper which the Rev. Austin Powell read on "Submerged Catholics" who were lost to the Church. He said that never since Elizabeth ascended the throne of England had the prospects in the country been darker. In most parts of England the Catholics were losing in numbers both relatively and actually. Emigration to America, which affected them, was a non-preventable cause, whereas great and partially preventable causes were apostasy and the aversion of young men to matrimony. In reply to his critics the essayist observed that figures could not be gained. Liverpool was the only diocese showing an increase, and even there it was not in proportion to the growth of population.

Another aspect of Catholic affairs was presented by the Rev. L. C. Casartelli to the delegates attending the Catholic Conference held in London. The speaker, who is the editor of the English organ of Catholic foreign missions, stated that nothing was practically known in England of the Catholic Church as the greatest foreign missionary in the world, following the observation with an extraordinary assertion—viz that in India last year there were 87. Protestant missionaries, whose reports indicated that only 298 converts had been added to the native churches at a cost of £48,000. The Catholics, on the other hand, were able to show in one diocese where they labored, which had a population of 7,000,000, that their missionaries had received more than double that number of adult persons. The former part of this statement is completely disproved by the latest returns from three societies alone in British India—the Church and Wesleyan Missionary Societies and the American Baptists.

Miscellaneous.—Much uneasiness is felt by the London Missionary Society for the welfare of their converts, stations, and training institution in Samoa, through the antagonism of Mataafa to the rule of Malietoa. Business at Samoa is stagnant.—The inquiry into the Palestine Mission is being conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury in London with closed doors.—A member of the Calvinistic Methodist Missionary Society has promised a legacy of £30,000 to the Jubilee Fund.—In 1895 the London Missionary Society will reach its centenary, an event which the directors wish to anticipate by placing a hundred additional missionaries in the foreign field.—Excellent patronage, including that of the queen's, has been given to the South African Choir, at present on a tour in England.—The General Assembly of Ireland reports successful work in India and China, and among the jungle tribes, with a revived interest in missions at home shown by a gratifying increased income.