

Blackfeet Indians, formerly the most bloodthirsty, had become quite tractable. A gentleman also told him that there was a band of Indians living on the slope of the Rocky Mountains who would never sit down to a meal without first asking

the divine blessing. This had struck him as an extraordinary statement, but was confirmed by what had come under his notice while going through official correspondence connected with the Mounted Police.

## RELIGIOUS AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, M.A.

### WESLEYAN METHODIST.

The meeting of the London districts, to inaugurate the "Wesleyan Thanksgiving Fund," was a grand success. The amount subscribed exceeded \$150,000. It is anticipated that by the time all the circuits have been canvassed, this amount will be made up to \$200,000. Should the entire Connexion contribute as liberally as the metropolis has done, no doubt the proposed sum of one million of dollars will be forthcoming. The achievement will be one of the grandest in the annals of Methodism.

The General Committee of the Theological Institution have purchased an estate of seventeen acres near Birmingham, on which a new college for the Midland District will be erected. The work will be proceeded with without delay.

The following statistics exhibit the growth of Wesleyan Methodism in connection with the British Conference. Mr. Wesley left at his death, in 1791, upwards of 70,000 members, and at the beginning of the present century the number had increased to nearly 110,000. Since then the following decennial increases have been reported: (1820-30), 57,375; (1830-40), 74,586; (1840-50), 35,099; (1850-60), decrease, 47,966; (1860-70) increase, 38,160; (1870-78), 32,405.

The following is a cheering evidence of progress in the mission of North Ceylon. In 1867 there were twenty-nine preaching places, now

there are one hundred; then five English missionaries, now seven; then four Tamil ministers, now fourteen; then three catechists, now twenty-two; then 55 day-school teachers, now 150; then 337 members of society, now 898; then 922 boys in day-schools, now 4,968; then 922 boys in day-schools, now 4,968; then 241 girls, now 1,520.

A Magazine of Home and Foreign Missions, bearing the title of "At Home and Abroad," chiefly for young persons, is now issued by the secretaries at the Mission House.

The Missionary Notices for December is full of interesting matter relating to India, China, South Africa, and the West Indies. A biographical sketch is given of the Rev. Samuel Hardy, who lately passed away, after having served three terms of service in India; a considerable period in Australia; and in South Africa for the last sixteen years of his life. He had been in the service of the Society for more than half a century, and for thirty years he was chairman of every foreign district to which he was attached. His end was triumphant.

Sir Francis Lycett, who has often devised liberal things in Methodism, recently issued circulars inviting the young men of the various metropolitan circuits to meet him at a social gathering for conversation respecting Methodism. Some seventeen hundred young men, most of whom had come from the provinces to seek their fortunes in London, responded