



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF TROUBLE  
IN CHINA.

ing of the British summer residence, and

attacks on the Legation, all show an outbreak of fanaticism on the part of the Boxers. The Powers seem to be acting in concert and with vigour, although Russia is accused of sinister purposes. Yet the antipathy of Japan and the jealousy of the other European powers will probably prevent her from using the opportunity to advance her selfish purposes.

We doubt not that, as the result of this fanatical reaction, greater liberty shall be won for the entrance of commerce, civilization, and the Gospel in that great empire, which embraces one-third of the human race. But in the meantime, some valuable lives may be lost, and much martyr blood may be shed. The native Christians seem to have stood manfully for the truth, as did their martyr countrymen in previous persecutions.

## Religious Intelligence.

### THE GREATEST CONFERENCE.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is the most important ecclesiastical gathering of Protestant Christendom. In the magnitude of the interests which it represents, in the number of its ministers and missionaries, and in the far-reaching influence it represents, it surpasses all others. The session recently concluded at Chicago was one of the most eventful in its history. The admission of the laity to an equal representation in its councils, without a single dissentient vote, was a triumph of Christian brotherhood and equity. The proposed change of constitution to interpret laymen as including women, is another evidence of its progressive character.

### REMOVAL OF TIME LIMIT.

The most significant act, however, was the removal of the time limit in the pastorate. The debate on this subject was exceedingly able and interesting. Strong arguments were presented on both sides of the question. The gravest apprehensions and the most glowing optimism were expressed in the event of its removal. Both of these extremes, we judge, will be disappointed. The final vote was 421 for removal, and 238 against. It is significant that the call for separate vote by laymen and by ministers was rejected. Not once during the entire conference was such a vote taken.

We have no doubt that in great centres of population the prolonged pastorate will enable strong men to build up commanding influence, such as Dr. Storrs' fifty years' pastorate in Brooklyn illustrates; but some of the mobility of Methodism will be lost. We are still of the opinion that for the great body of Methodist ministers in town and country, greater results can be achieved in, say, ten three-year pastorates than in one of thirty. As the man goes to a new field he will feel that he must plough and sow and toil with intensest devotion if he is to gather in a harvest. The itinerancy means hard, not easy, work for the pastor, and involves serious hardships for his wife and family, but the unparalleled success of Methodism during a hundred years has shown how effective is this mobility in carrying the Gospel to all parts of this continent and to the ends of the earth.

The press, secular and religious, heartily congratulates the church on this important movement.

The *New York Independent* says: Hitherto it has been impossible for a Methodist minister to build up a great personal influence in a community. It cannot be done in three years or five. It requires ten, twenty years, for character and ability to reach its full fruition. What would Dr. Storrs or Phillips Brooks have been if driven out of his parish after three or five years, and com-