

ingly the service went on, and he preached his sermon to the six people. In the collection which followed was one offering of \$200. This amazed him. The next day he received a note from a gentleman asking him to call at such an office. The Bishop responded, "I am the one," said the gentleman, "who gave you the \$200 last night. But after getting home I did not feel quite satisfied with doing that. I propose to make the sum up to \$1,000; and here is my check for the balance." It is not likely that the good Bishop after this ever had any doubts with reference to his duty when called upon to face a small congregation.

### Hackneyed Illustrations.

Do not use them. It is not necessary when there is such a wealth of fresh and interesting incidents to be obtained from

the papers and elsewhere. It is surprising that so many speakers will weaken their remarks by dragging in anecdotes that have long since lost their force on account of familiarity. At our recent General Conference a speaker of some note related, in detail, that old yarn about the soldier in Cuba who was saved from being shot by having the English and American flags wrapped about him. When this story was first told in Toronto, in Elm Street Church, by Rev. J. O. Peck, D.D., it

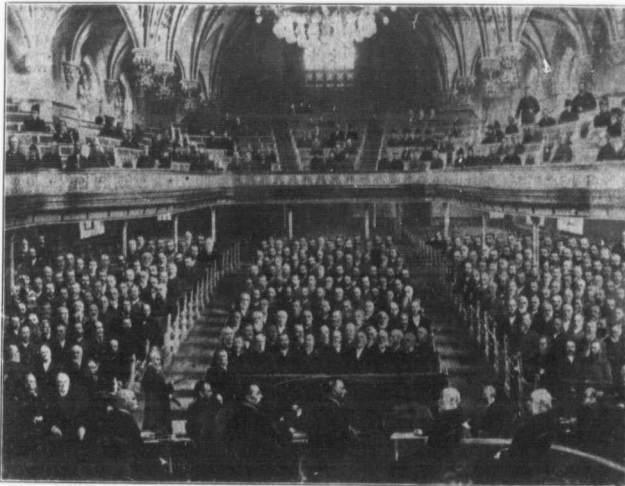
aroused great enthusiasm, and the vast audience burst into applause though it was Sunday evening. Its latest repetition in our city fell decidedly flat. A colored brother who was introduced to the General Conference, actually spent several minutes in telling the ancient story of how the old woman killed the bear when her partner claimed the credit. Illustrations wisely chosen add greatly to the effect of a sermon or address, but time-worn chestnuts should be avoided.

### The Pastor and the League.

One of our district secretaries, in sending out report blanks to the local leagues, among other questions asked the following: "How often has your pastor attended the League meetings during the year?" Laying aside the propriety of asking such a question, the answers are

decidedly interesting. The majority of the societies report that "the pastor attends the services quite frequently." Two or three state "that he is always present," while one secretary says, "The pastor has not been seen once at the League during the past year." This district is probably a representative one in this respect, although we can scarcely believe there is an average of one minister to a district who entirely ignores the League. It is most astounding that any pastor could so put himself out of touch with his young people as to be absent from their meetings for twelve months. As a rule, our ministers are thoroughly in sympathy with the League, and are regular attendants of the services.

The young people, on their part, should recognize that the pastor is the chief officer of the League, whose advice should be sought in everything that is undertaken.



INTERIOR OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### The General Conference.

The picture on this page serves a double purpose, showing the interior of St. James' Church, and also giving a very excellent photograph of the General Conference at its last meeting in Montreal, about eight years ago. Inside the altar rail to the extreme right is Rev. W. McMullen, English Representative, next to him sits the General Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carman, and still farther to the left are Rev. S. F. Huestis, Rev. Dr. Badgley, and Warring Kennedy, Esq. Many of those occupying the pews will be easily recognized, especially by the aid of a magnifying glass. Of course it is impossible to bring out every face in a picture of this kind.

The General Conference meets once every four years and consists of ministers and laymen in equal numbers, elected by the Annual Conferences, the representation being one minister and one layman for every twelve ministers.

### Well Done, Vancouver!

The League of Princess Street Church, Vancouver, has only thirty members, but has already sent a list of seventeen subscribers for this paper. If all the Leagues in Canada would do equally as well, we would have a circulation of 50,000 within a month. How was this fine list at Vancouver obtained? By the enthusiastic work of one young man, Mr. Victor W. Odum, who commenced the canvass without the aid of either sample copy or prospectus. Here is an extract from his letter:

"It was with much pleasure that I heard we were to have a paper of our own. By *see*, I mean the Epworth Leagues of Canada. My first thought was, 'How can I aid the project?' The most reasonable answer seemed to be, 'Get up a club.' Accordingly I set to work, and in our own

little League of about thirty members I have succeeded in getting seventeen subscribers. Appended is the list. Whenever the paper first appears, kindly do not overlook any of these. When asked by those whom I canvassed to show a copy of the periodical, I answered, 'Anything that the Epworth League runs will be a success, and you can trust that the paper will be worth far more than double the money.'

If we had just one worker like this young man in every

League in Canada, how things would move!

### A Delightful Book.

Rev. S. A. Steel, D.D., writes thus of "The Fairy Land of Science," one of the books of our Reading Course:

"This is one of the most delightful books ever written on scientific subjects, whether for young or old, though it is specially adapted to the young. The author not only knows her subject, but what is equally as important when others are concerned she knows how to tell it. She has a poetical imagination that enables her to set the solid facts of nature in such a light that they fascinate the mind. This little volume is worth a ton of that profligate but fashionable fiction that floods our literary channels. Get it, read it, and put it in your children's hands. It is indeed more wonderful than any fairy tale invention ever conjured up out of the abyss of fancy."