

## WESLEYAN TESTIMONY TO CHURCH PROGRESS IN ENGLAND.

At the recent Wesleyan Conference, in the course of the discussion on the cause of their continued decrease in numbers, year after year, Dr. Osborn, one of their preachers, said he had been watching the religious condition of the country more than half a century, and he had no hesitation in saying that he did not believe there ever was such a revival of religion as that of which the Established Church had been the subject during the last half century.

"Looking at its origin, effects, tendencies, and results, there is nothing in Ecclesiastical history that can be put side by side with it. I do not enter into details, but I know a place in which the clergy are patterns to all Christian ministers, of every kind and distinction, in zeal, and in untiring labor. They seem to me to live in the Church, except when in the school or in the houses of the people. They have such a judicious use made of the Church's gifts, that the effect is to swell the congregation; and so with eight services a day, with five men always at work visiting boarding schools and day schools—and, remember, that means laying hands upon young people in a plastic state—holding Bible classes, Sunday School teachers' classes, in one way or another giving up their whole time to the work. Is it a wonder that churches are crowded? They can adept all our means except the class meeting. They can use private influence and public influence, and influence of every degree, and they do it. And

it is impossible to expect that you can have the same facilities of access to the people, or the same influence as you had fifty years ago."

At another meeting, a Dr. Pope laid the flattering unction to his soul that, although their numbers are decreasing year by year, yet their influence was on the increase! and he was sure his descendants would be Methodists. Other speakers suggested a variety of reasons for their continued decrease of numbers; but not one of them seemed to have thought of the real reason of all—their systematic, and increasing departure from the principles and teaching in which the heart and soul of John Wesley were bound up. But the fact is that very few of their people know much about his teachings or his writings; and hence it comes that, as one of their periodicals in England expresses it, they do an immense business, employ a vast capital, and show large returns; but when they come to take stock, and balance accounts, they have amassed but little profit; and during three successive years they have sustained decided loss.—*Sel.*

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## A GOOD ANSWER.

FATHER HIMES, the venerable Missionary who has lately come into the Church from the Second Adventists, is exercising his ministry in Dakota.

Some of his former co-religionists, and other Christian people not of our communion, have been attending his services in Elk Point. Naturally they feel that the Church service is somewhat protracted and rather long for them. Accordingly they came to him and said, "now