

support, which took the shape of Tractarianism and found its catastrophe in an inconsiderable secession. Ritualism is more love of church ceremonial and music than a movement of conviction. Many people who are indifferent to the doctrine go to ritualist and even to Roman Catholic churches as they would go to a concert or a play. The rural population is not affected in the slightest degree. Nor have the ritualists among them laymen of mark. Their leading man is Lord Halifax, distinguished by nothing but his title. England is no more likely to go back to the religion than to the science of the middle ages.

#### WESLEYAN CONFERENCE NOTES.

From the excellent report in *Zion's Herald*, we glean the following items :

The representative appointed to the Methodist Episcopal Church is Rev. Thomas Allen, who is likely to be the President of the Conference next year. Rev. Hugh Price Hughes would have been appointed but for his desire to be in the Holy Land next spring, which led him to decline the honour.

A most enthusiastic meeting was held in the interests of the Twentieth Century Fund, the marvellous success of which has been the great event of the year. Already \$702,674 have been subscribed, and the twelve months to come will certainly complete it.

A donation from Lord Rosebery of £100 was enthusiastically received.

There was rather a lively time over the temperance question, Rev. Thomas Champness wishing the Conference to put on record its "opinion that no Christian man should manufacture or sell intoxicating liquor;" but it proved to be far too radical to meet the minds of the brethren, and was defeated by a large majority.

Holiness was the theme of the ex-President's sermon Sunday night—"Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,"—and a well-attended meeting for the promotion of holiness was held on one of the other evenings.

A great sensation was produced by the presentation before the Conference, and also on the platform of St. James' Hall, Sunday afternoon, of eighteen French ex-priests who have, with many others, recently come out of the Church of Rome and are living witnesses to the power of the Gospel. The movement is one of the most remarkable and promising of modern times.

Fifty-two men were received into full connection this year. They were pledged to preach, not to read sermons; and this promise is hereafter to be regularly required of candidates.

A large number of requests from circuits for the reappointment of their ministers beyond the regulation three-year term was presented and most promptly granted. Thus elasticity is given to the time limit for exceptional cases.

There are at present throughout the world fifty-six Methodist deaconess institutions, comprising over eight hundred deaconesses and probationers. Commenting on the character of the work thus accomplished, an exchange says, "With characteristic energy the Methodists have definitely caught and carried out the conviction that the world wants 'mothering.'"

#### A GRAND RECORD.

The striking growth of missionary givings in the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States is shown by the following statement of the Rev. Dr. W. T. Smith, Missionary Secretary of that Church :

"The receipts of the Missionary Society for the first year of its history was \$823.04; the last year, \$1,242,827.33. The total receipts from the beginning are \$34,484,577.99. About half of this money has been expended in the home field—for the work of the Church in this country. The other half has been expended in foreign lands. It is certainly a magnificent record. We can safely estimate an income of \$1,250,000 for 1899. This will aggregate for the last decade more than twelve millions and a quarter. The receipts by decades have been as follows:

1820-1829 .....	\$51,054 29
1830-1839 .....	462,929 13
1840-1849 .....	1,134,719 53
1850-1859 .....	2,207,842 01
1860-1869 .....	4,975,891 15
1870-1879 .....	6,299,357 45
1880-1889 .....	8,372,668 57
1890-1899 .....	10,998,115 80

Total .....\$34,484,577 99

#### RECENT DEATHS.

The death list of notable men in the kingdom and service of God during the past month is a large one. Conspicuous among these is the venerable William Butler. He passed from labour to reward on August 23rd, in his eighty-second year. Dr. Butler has the honour of being