

the first was held in the after part of the day. The labours of the young men were appreciated by many, and hopes were entertained that good was done.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Year Book for 1886 gives the following statistics of this Church. Members, 1,689,816; probationers, 196,028, total 1,885,844 against 1,793,934 last year. Ministers, 11,676; local preachers, 12,397. Churches valued at \$74,833,142; parsonages, 6,918 at \$10,600,612. The net increase in members was 61,910, or nearly 3½ per cent.

The church extension work was organized in 1864. In twenty-one years \$2,730,000 has been collected and disbursed; of which \$535,000 is a permanent fund to aid churches by loans, and of this amount \$376,000 have been returned and relented to churches. In this way 5,331 churches have received aid. During the past fifty-two years the Church has given \$7,527,758.36 for carrying the Gospel into the "regions beyond."

The Chinese residents of Singapore, India, have subscribed \$3,000 to the new mission in that city.

A Methodist minister was lately arrested and imprisoned for about an hour at Clinton, Iowa, for street preaching. His incarceration aroused general indignation, and the City Council at once rescinded the anti-Salvation Army law under which the arrest was made.

The Minutes of the African Conference (Monrovia, Liberia) have just been received. Bishop Taylor presided. The number of ministers is thirty, churches twenty-eight, valued at \$13,957, averaging \$500 each. The entire ministerial force of the Conference received during the year but \$1,760, not quite an average of \$50 each.

The publishing work in India is being finely developed. At the recent meeting of the Book Committee plans were perfected for the establishment of a publishing-house in Calcutta. The Lucknow publishing-house is said to be in a state of great efficiency.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

The increase in the membership this year will not be less than 47,000. This will about bring the membership up to a round million. The increase for the quadrennium is in excess of any quadrennium in the history of the Church, reaching at least 125,000. Dr. Allen calls for 150 missionaries for China, and a great increase is required both in Mexico and Brazil. The Book Establishment at Nashville has done well this quadrennium, and a gratifying report will be presented at the General Conference which meets at Richmond next May. Canadian Methodism will be represented by the Rev. William Briggs, the energetic Book Steward, who was appointed fraternal delegate by the General Conference.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The cities of Belleville and Kingston have sustained a heavy loss by the destruction of one church each by fire. Both are to be rebuilt, one was estimated at \$40,000 and the other at \$20,000. The Sunday-school rooms of Belleville church were probably the best in Canada.

The Montreal Sunday-schools number over 3,000 scholars. The schools raised last year for missions \$4,154. The Hon. Senator Ferrier is still the Superintendent of the St. James Street Sunday-school.

DEATH ROLL.

The Rev. Joseph Earl, of the Montreal Conference, has been called from labour to reward. He died at Merrickville, January 28th. Our dear brother commenced his itinerancy in 1876. All the years of his ministry were spent within the bounds of the Montreal Conference. Some of his appointments required great physical labour, which doubtless in part accounts for his premature death. At the Conference of 1885 he retired for one year, hoping that the year's rest would tend to recuperate his energies, but the Master has called him to his eternal rest in heaven.