

...The...

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...What is Going On in the Religious World...

As many as 500 attend the mid-week prayer-meeting at Trinity Church, Denver.

During the past season a great revival has taken place in Central Wesleyan College, Warrentown, Mo., in which nearly every student confessed Christ in one way or another.

A pew in St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, where Mrs. Roosevelt worships, has just been sold at auction for \$2,850; and that is the lowest price paid for a pew in that church for many years.

The Chicago Young Peoples Christian Temperance Union have started a bill board campaign and are posting immense temperance cartoons on the regular commercial bill boards—a most effective way of reaching a large class of persons who never read.

Forty-one theological seminaries in North America have a professorship partly devoted to Sunday School work, their line of effort ranging from special courses to lectureships of from two to twenty a year. Three seminaries have an instructor devoting his whole time to Sunday School lines.

The Layman's Missionary Movement has been in existence for about one year, but it has accomplished marvels during that time. At first it touched only the men of the large cities and towns, but recently there has been an awakening in the country localities, and the laymen almost everywhere are "getting busy."

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will be held in Baltimore in May. There will be about 800 members. The body has grown so rapidly that there is now a movement to reduce its size. Our church will be worthily represented at this great gathering in Baltimore by Rev. James Henderson, D.D., and N. W. Rowell, Esq.

Rev. Dr. Gordon (Ralph Connor) of Winnipeg thinks that all church's might do better work if they would cultivate some of the features of the institutional church. This is doubtless true of most city churches. The Wesleyan Church of the old land has shown us what can be accomplished, under unfavorable conditions, by institutional methods backed up by unlimited energy and perseverance.

A very sensible and satisfactory conference held in Halifax recently between representatives of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, resulted in a new policy in the matter of starting missions in connection with these churches. An arrangement was made by which the Methodists will be the ones to work a certain field in Halifax County and the Presbyterians the ones in a Cumberland County district.

Rev. Dr. Cadman was once a distinguished Methodist preacher, but is now pastor of a Congregational Church in Brooklyn, with 3,000 members. He preaches in the morning to a congregation which numbers about 2,000, and in the evening to 1,500, but they are entirely different people. Dr. Cadman says: "All Brooklyn Church goers are converts," Canadians, in many places, are becoming very much like them.

As far as Methodism is concerned, mission work in Cuba has been left entirely to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which commenced work in the island, about nine years ago. There are now 37 churches, with 2,847 members. There are 44 Sunday Schools, with 176 officers and teachers and 2,157 scholars. The Epworth League number 17, with 675 members. Bishop Candler says that "no reaction or decline is apparent in either present or prospective conditions."

In Portugal it is no longer a "crime of disrespect to the State religion" to circulate the Bible as used by Protestantism. This is the decision of the Lisbon Court of Appeals, and it is pronounced the most notable judgment ever rendered in Portugal in favor of religious tolerance. This decision was made in the case of a colporteur of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who had been charged at Elvas with selling Bibles and so "acting in a way prejudicial to the religion of the State."

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the Transvaal has undertaken a million-dollar twentieth century thankoffering. When the million guinea offering was in process of raising in the Wesleyan Church several years ago the Transvaal was deprived from entering into the scheme by the Boer war. Now that peace reigns and prosperity prevails, this people are minded to do their part and raise \$250,000. A good start has been secured, and success is confidently expected, though a general spirit of self-denial must prevail to insure a fulfillment of the plan.

The "Presbyterian," of this city, has an appreciative article on the Wesleyan West London Mission, by Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., formerly of Toronto. In speaking of the Superintendent, Rev. J. E. Rattenbury, he says: "As regards the Gospel that he preaches, Mr. Rattenbury combines what is old with what is new. Like Rev. Dr. Clifford, of Westwood Park, and Rev. R. J. Campbell, of the City Temple, he believes emphatically in a social Gospel. He holds that the material and temporal betterment of London is one of the supreme demands of the moment, and already he has thrown himself into this cause with his whole heart. His sympathetic action has served to draw public attention to the West London Mission, and very quickly Kingsway Hall began to be uncomfortably crowded."

A Japan missionary writes: "Things are going on well out here. The new Union Church is taking hold of the situation. Bishop Honda travels from one end of these islands to the other, preaching and inspiring pastors and people. Special evangelistic meetings have been held in many cities. A group of prominent preachers, headed by Bishop Honda, has traveled widely and the meetings have been very successful, especially in the reclamation of backsliders. In our Tokio Central Church more than one hundred seekers presented themselves during the week of the meetings."

In speaking recently in Toronto on "men for the ministry," Mr. John R. Mott dealt with the scandalous maintenance of the ministry that prevails in many quarters. Mr. Mott pointed out that the glory of the ministry is shut in all ages it has not shrunk from sacrifice. The heroic spirit has not died out, and men would be willing to make as great sacrifices to-day as in the brightest periods of the past if it were necessary. They are not willing to spend their lives in the service of men and women who are lavish in their expenditure upon themselves and generous in their support of everything but the ministry.

The First Presbyterian Church of Seattle is open from 8 o'clock Monday morning till 10 o'clock Sunday night, and there is some kind of service, committee meeting, class meeting, or organization doing its work or conducting its service every day and every night in the week. The church undertakes to deal with the bodies, minds, souls, and lives of the individuals coming under its influence. This church has received more people on confession of faith for six consecutive years than any other church in the United States. Last year it received eight hundred and thirty-eight members, six hundred and thirteen of whom were received on profession of faith.

Our readers will be interested in the following statistical report of the churches of England and Wales, taken from a late issue of the "Methodist Times" of London. From this return it appears that Free Churches, as a whole, outnumber the Established Church in the number of sittings, of communicants, of Sunday School teachers, and of Sunday School scholars. The gross figures are as follows: Sittings—Free Churches, 8,453,925; Established Church, 7,240,136. Communicants—Free Churches, 2,183,914; Established Church, 2,053,455. Sunday School teachers—Free Churches, 405,391; Church of England, 206,573. Sunday School scholars—Free Churches, 3,471,276; Established Church, 2,538,240. Under all these heads the Wesleyan Methodist Church occupies the leading position among the Free Churches of the country."