

would have been thought visionary. But these are days in which visions become glorious realities with a rapidity that in more slow-moving times would have been impossible. May God guide, to His honour and glory, a movement which to so many hearts seems an augury of the blessed

time when the prayer of the Master for His disciples shall be fulfilled: "That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; *that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.*"

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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The Conference of the Parent Body is meeting in Manchester as these notes are being compiled. Rev. John Walton was elected President. He was formerly a missionary in Ceylon, more recently a missionary in South Africa, and President of the first Conference in that colony, and therefore has had a succession of honours such as fall only to the lot of few.

There are many indications of the prosperity of Methodism in England, but there is one humiliating fact which excites bitter regret: there is a decrease of 63 in the number of members, though in the junior classes there is an increase of 4,997, and an increase in the number of members on trial of 2,887; the total number of candidates for the ministry is 163.

The King of Dahomey has written to the Missionary Society, thanking them for sending to his country the Gospel of Christ which he and the sons of his people have joyfully accepted, and says that he has granted land to the Wesleyan Mission, on which he intends to build a church.

The need for a lay mission in China was mentioned publicly some two years ago, and three laymen of the Wesleyan Church are now at work in the Central China lay mission of that denomination. They are planning evangelistic tours and an industrial school at Hankow.

Mr. Champness has been compelled to say "no" to 200 applications for *Joyful News* evangelists. At

least 300 such evangelists could be employed if the necessary funds were forthcoming. Mr. C. is appointing evangelists to labour specially among the model dwellings for artisans, which are "practically country villages translated to the great city."

Holiness Conventions have been recently held in central places in England. The services were varied, but all were systematically planned. Such ministers as Revs. E. E. Jenkins, H. P. Hughes, C. Garrett, T. Champness, L. E. Page, Jas. Chalmers, W. H. Tindall, J. C. Greeves and others, all of whom are known to be prominent advocates of holiness and successful evangelists, took part in the services.

The Wesleyan and other Methodist bodies in England observe the second Sabbath in November as Temperance Sunday, and thousands of pulpits on that day speak out in strong terms against the liquor traffic.

A special meeting of the Committees and Officers of Societies in London, taking part in Foreign Missions, was recently held in the Bible House, London, for united prayer and thanksgiving on behalf of Foreign Missions. Invitations were sent out to not less than forty societies, larger and smaller. The Earl of Harrowby presided.

It is intended to hold a General Conference on Foreign Missions in 1888. A preparatory committee, consisting of representatives from the principal Missionary Societies, has been appointed.