

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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The one hundred and forth-eighth Annual Conference was held at Nottingham, which is only the second which has been held in that town. The last Conference held there was memorable on account of the great debate which decided the right of laymen to share in the proceedings of the Annual Conferences.

The Rev. T. B. Stephenson, D.D., LL.D., well known to many in Canada, was elected to the presidential chair by a very large majority of ballots. The new President's inaugural address was characteristic. He made a tender allusion to his deceased parents, who were connected with the Methodist ministry, so the President is in the true succession. His allusion to the missions among the masses was full of sympathy.

Rev. Dr. Waller was re-elected Secretary. It is the custom with the parent body to appoint the same person to the secretariat for a succession of years. Efficiency is thus secured.

There has been an unusual mortality in the ministerial ranks. Several who had fallen were men of more than ordinary ability, and who had long occupied prominent positions. Revs. Dr. G. Osborn, J. Moorhouse, J. McKay, D.D., Dr. Rule, Alexander M'Aulay, Marmaduke Osborn, Jas. Chalmers and several others. The memorial service was a solemn season, at which many tears were shed. Rev. Thornley Smith, an African missionary and a voluminous author, died during the sessions of Conference, shortly after preaching an impressive sermon.

A deputation of Nonconformist ministers visited the Conference and presented a congratulatory address, which was followed by several kind and prompt speeches, to which re-

sponses equally cordial were delivered by members of the Conference.

Rev. Alberico Bossi's account of the spread of the Gospel in his native land was thrilling. Paul's words were verified. "They of Italy salute you."

The Conference sent a sympathetic letter to the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon; and on the receipt of the sad intelligence of the riot in China, in which a brave missionary and another Englishman had lost their lives, while others were still in peril, special prayer was offered.

Fifty-seven in all, at home and abroad, completed their probation.

A large number of ministers—twenty-five—were granted a superannuated relation, most of whom had travelled more than forty years.

Rev. F. A. Macdonald leaves the Professor's chair to become Missionary Secretary.

There is an invested capital of more than \$40,000 on behalf of necessitous local preachers.

A lady—Miss Newton, of Whitehill—sent \$1,250 to the Missionary Society, a similar amount to the Worn-Out Ministers' Fund.

Probably not the least important reports were made respecting the missions in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Leeds. In London more than three thousand members have been gathered into the Church. In all the missions lay agency, including female help, is especially recognized. Many have been rescued from the lowest strata in society. The young have been cared for, and poor women have been visited by the "sisters," and relieved in their distress and encouraged in the midst of the most trying circumstances to hope for better days.

The report of the extension of Methodism in Great Britain stated