

history, or some great character, as Savonarola, Luther, Knox, Cromwell or Wesley, and direct the thought and reading of their people on these grandly educative lines. In village communities, where University extension lecturers could not come, the local clergy might arrange a winter course, and enlist the co-operation of very many of their people.

In one department especially, a department which is wholly their own, in which they are supposed to be above all others expert, the most important department of human knowledge, the most profound, the most fascinating, the most ennobling and mentally and spiritually uplifting and inspiring—the systematic study of the Word of God—they might do more than is generally done by week-evening services, in which broad outlooks and comprehensive studies of large portions of Scripture might with advantage be provided. Our Presbyterian friends surpass us in the expository treatment of God's message to men, which sometimes precedes their sermons, and is often more instructive and edifying than the sermon itself.

The Canadian Government pursues a very liberal policy in the way of helping Mechanics' Institutes to form local libraries by giving books to twice the amount of the money locally raised; the late Dr. Ryerson made provision for a library in every public school; our Methodist Sunday-schools alone have nearly three-quarters of a million of books in circulation. These ought all to be great educative forces, if only more care were observed in elevating the taste of the people, by providing books of a higher grade and getting them intelligently read. What makes Scotland the country that it is? the habits of reading and study of its people. John Knox wrought more wisely than he knew when he planted a school in every parish, put a Bible in every school, and a catechism in every house. We in Canada have a more bountiful soil, a finer climate, greater average wealth, a larger population. Why should we not seek for our country that mental and moral elevation and business enter-

prise that carries the Scot to the front in every land in Christendom?

A CONTINENTAL METHODIST CONFERENCE.

THE success of the Ecumenical Conference has been so great that it has been proposed to have on each side of the Atlantic an assembly of representative Methodists of the Eastern and Western sections respectively, midway in date between the decennial meetings of the Ecumenical. The comparing of notes, discussion of great themes, and the coming together in friendly intercourse of leaders in thought and action in the Methodist Churches, cannot but have a salutary effect in unifying the sympathies and operations of Methodism, both in the old world and the new. Such discussions, moreover, will bring us also more and more into close and vital touch with the great questions of the day, which are more and more earnestly demanding solution.

We beg leave to suggest, as our individual opinion, that the most eligible place for a meeting of that Methodist Conference *f.* this continent would be this good city of Toronto. Our English friends have spoken of Toronto as the most noteworthy Methodist city in the world. We think it would be a splendid object-lesson to our American friends to the south of us, to come and see for themselves the splendid development of Methodism, in the multiplying of commodious churches and the growth of Methodist institutions, very largely the result of the recent Methodist Union in this country and the seal of the Divine approval thereupon. Our Presbyterian friends purpose holding next year their Pan-Presbyterian Synod of all the Presbyterian communions in Christendom. Could we not emulate their splendid example and endeavour to have here a great Methodist gathering about the year 1896.

TO OUR PATRONS.

This is the last opportunity we shall have of addressing our patrons during the current year. We have