

Religious Intelligence.

FORWARD.

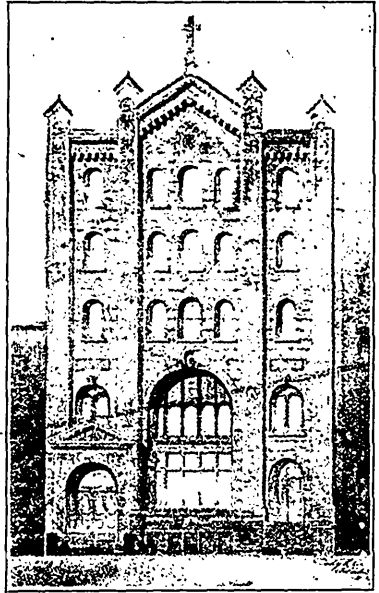
The General Conference has been so well reported in the daily and weekly press that there is no need for attempting a record of its proceedings, going to press as we do a month after its sessions. It will pass into history as one of the most eventful conferences in the history of our church. The conspicuous note was one of progress. Its message was "Speak unto the people that they go forward." Its unanimous approval of the proceedings of the movements towards church union and the enlargement of the plan to embrace the Anglican and Baptist churches and the Evangelical Association was a long step in advance. It is now "up to" the individual churches, the final court of appeal, to discuss this great subject in all its aspects and pronounce upon it in the fear and love of God.

The advocates of woman's franchise are disappointed that though the Conference "praised the women it kept them out." But one cause of this vote was the desire to do nothing that would impede the union, and it was feared that to change the constitution of our church while negotiations are in progress as might seriously interfere with that desired end. We believe the proposed United Church will be more progressive in this regard than any of its separate sections.

The growing needs of the great West, with its new commonwealths coming into vigorous life, and the tide of foreign emigration in our crowded cities and our boundless prairies received provision in the appointment of additional missionary secretary and two vigorous field officers. The arrival within two years of seventy English "helpers," as John Wesley would call them, in this great field are another mark of progress.

The strong deliverance of the Conference on the subject of moral reform, especially the clauses on the temperance and sociological problem, was a very important document. These great questions will form admirable themes for our young men's clubs, Epworth Leagues and other organizations for study and research. These are the greatest issues before the Church to-day.

A HEROIC ENTERPRISE IN METHODISM.



THE NEW ITALIAN CHURCH AS IT WILL APPEAR WHEN FINISHED.

A significant event at the late General Conference was the application by forty Italian citizens of Montreal for a Methodist mission in that city. The success of the Italian mission in Toronto is very encouraging. So also is the Methodist Italian mission in New York. In that city there are not fewer than 400,000 Italians, and of these at least 25,000 are located in a densely populated community north of One Hundred and Fourth Street and east of Second Avenue. Here is what seems likely to be for generations to come, a distinctive Italian settlement, ever supplied by immigration and a prolific birth-rate with new material, for Christianizing influences. For ten years an earnest and fruitful ministry has been maintained in "Little Italy," as this uptown Italian section is called, under the direction of Rev. Filoteo Tagliabate; the church has an en-