

was appointed to confer with other committees which may be appointed, and it is hoped that during the next year, by reason of friendly exchange of pulpits, the Bible Christian and Primitive Methodists, at least, may be ripe for union by the Conference of 1896.

RECENT DEATHS.

We regret to learn that the honoured head of the long-established house of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York, has recently passed away from time. Mr. Houghton maintained for many years the best traditions of the publishing trade. Under his auspices the leading writers of New England were introduced to the public. The *imprimatur* of his house upon any book was a guarantee of its high-class character. The book catalogue of the house embraces the leading contributors to New England literature for the last score of years. Mr. Houghton was a member of the Methodist Church, and for twenty-five years held the position of superintendent of a Methodist Sunday-school. We had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance and were deeply impressed with his urbanity and Christian courtesy. We doubt not that his surviving associates will maintain the same high aims which distinguished Henry Oscar Houghton during his long career as the head of this great publishing house.

Dr. Edward Beecher, brother of the late Henry Ward Beecher, died last July at the great age of ninety-two. He grad-

uated at Yale when he was only nineteen; after being in the pastorate a few years he became president of a college in Illinois. He was one of the founders, and for some years editor, of the *Congregationalist*, and the author of some important works. For a few years he was assistant to his brother in Brooklyn, whom he dearly loved. When Henry was tried in the civil court some years ago Edward was at his side during the whole trial. When eighty-two years old he was again called to the pastorate. A few years ago he met with an accident, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. He was a man deservedly esteemed, and served his generation nobly.

Dr. John R. Alexander, a well-known Methodist in Montreal, was recently called to his reward. He was a native of the Province in which he died, and was a man of great energy. Whatsoever he found to do he did it with his might. At one time he was in the Methodist ministry, but voice failure compelled him to locate. Having taken a medical course, in due time he took his medical degree. On retiring from the ministry he became connected with the Aetna Insurance Company, in which he rendered most efficient service. He was also proprietor of the Turkish Bath Hotel, in Montreal, and was an inveterate hater of tobacco and liquor. Those who knew regarded him as one of the noblest of men. His death is a loss to Methodism in Montreal. He was a member of the General Conference in 1886 and 1890.

Book Notices.

The State: Elements of Historical and Practical Politics. A sketch of institutional history and administration. By WOODROW WILSON, Ph.D., LL.D. Author of "Congressional Government." Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

The fact of government is one of the oldest in the history of the race. The scientific study of its theory is one of the newest. The present volume, we believe, is the first attempt to analyze the facts and synthesize the principles of human government. The subjects of constitutional law and political and social economy are now being studied in most of our

universities. This book is designed to aid the instructor and students in this important department. Of special interest is the account of the historical development of government from the times of the Aryan patriarchs. The struggle between the democracies and oligarchies of Greece; the shrewd, practical and firm administration of Rome; the evolution of the feudal and monarchical systems of mediæval times; the modern governments of France, the German kingdoms and empire, Austria and Switzerland; the governmental system of Great Britain, with its vast colonial empire, and of the United States are outlined with luminous