

will concede this or suggest an acceptable compromise, hence it is to be feared that the amalgamation of these branches of the Methodist family will not take place in the immediate future.

Rev. Jas. Pickett, Leicester, has received an illuminated address accompanied with seventy guineas as an expression of public esteem.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., has given \$500 to the Aged and Needy Local Preachers' Fund.

RECENT DEATHS.

The Rev. Geo. Barlow, Wesleyan, Northampton, England, was drowned in the Channel in the collision between the *Esparto*, of Leith, and the *Noel*, of Dunkirk. The *Esparto* was cut in two by the other vessel and sank almost immediately. Mr. Barlow, who was on furlough for his health, was the only passenger. He had been in the ministry thirty-seven years.

The Rev. Michael Fawcett, superannuated minister, Toronto Conference, was called to his long home, December 18th. He was one of the oldest members of the Conference, and probably one of the best known. He became an itinerant in 1841. He was sometimes described as belonging to the "old school," and as such he died. In tendering his love to his brother ministers, he urged that they preach the old-fashioned Gospel. He leaves two sons and a grandson in the ministry. His funeral was numerously attended. Many of his old comrades in arms were present.

Rev. W. Burns, D.D., of the Presbyterian Church, Canada, for many years known as Secretary for the Deceased Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, died at Guelph, January 2nd, 1898. He left his home in Toronto, on New Year's Day, feeling, as he said, in the best of health. He preached in Guelph on Sunday morning with great power. In the afternoon he went to attend a funeral, but while standing with the Bible in his hand, and about to commence the service in the death-chamber, he fell to the floor. Two medical men were in immediate attendance, but they pronounced life extinct. The deceased gentleman was deservedly respected. He was Moderator of the Toronto Presbytery at the time of his death. His widow and family have the sympathy of numerous friends.

MISSIONARY ITEMS.

The four women physicians in the North China Mission and three assistants treated last year a total of 37,113 patients.

During the past year 1,775 Sunday-schools were started in India and 66,000 new scholars brought in.

It is proposed to found a school in Shanghai, China, for Chinese girls and women, which is to grow into a university.

It is intended to place oak tablets in the hall of Wesleyan College, Richmond, on which shall be inscribed the names of the missionaries who have gone forth from the college and died in the field.

Educated natives in Japan and India are beginning to realize the value of Christian home life. A Japanese gentleman lately remarked: "The religion that makes the purest and happiest home will always be the best for any country. If Christianity does that, it is the right religion for Japan."

The late report presented at the annual meeting of the China Inland Mission showed about \$31,000 already raised this year in Canada and the United States. There are now ninety-seven missionaries in China from this continent, fifty-four of them being women. Five missionaries and two probationers have been sent out this year.

The India *Witness* recently said that the Methodist Church in India "has 70,000 church members; 30,000 young people are being trained in 1,300 educational institutions of every kind; nearly 80,000 children are taught in 2,200 Sunday-schools. Two hundred American and other foreign missionaries direct this work in India and Malaysia, assisted by over 3,000 regularly appointed Indian agents. The mission property is valued at \$9,750,000."

BARBARA HECK PREMIUM.

Much interest is being shown in the proposed Barbara Heck Woman's Residence at Victoria University. Active Local Committees are co-operating with the Committee in Toronto for deepening this interest and raising funds for this memorial of the mother of Methodism in Canada. To aid this movement the author of the story of "Barbara Heck" offers a copy of that book as a premium to any subscriber to the *METHODIST MAGAZINE*, either old or new, post free, for the nominal sum of 25 cents. Address Rev. Dr. Withrow, or, Rev. Dr. Briggs, Methodist Book Room, Toronto.