

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE, LONDON, 1860.

The London Conference of 1860 has been in a high degree satisfactory. The progress of the work of God, so far as that work is intrusted to our own church in the United Kingdom and the Colonies, came under close and searching review; and we find cause for the deepest gratitude to the Head of the universal church for the prosperity which has crowned the labours of our brethren.

First, of all, we mark an increase of 17,516 members in Great Britain, and 3,129 in Ireland, making a total of 20,645; after deducting, as usual, the number of deaths, and the more lamentable loss which our communion, like every other, suffers from the falling away of those weaker members, who become weary of well-doing, and go back into the world again. From this latter cause, however, there is no reason to apprehend that our loss, this year, has been unusually large, or that the salutary strictness of our discipline has been in any way relaxed.

The Home Missionary Department of Wesleyan Methodism advances with a steadiness that is far more hopeful than any sudden upspringing of success could have been; while the observation of our readers throughout the country must have enabled them to understand and feel that there is a vast reserve of public favour and support for this effort, which will be forthcoming in proportion as the Home Missionary Ministers prosecute their labours, and as such labours are found necessary, absolutely and indispensable necessary for the extension of our church in all districts and amongst all classes.

The Foreign Missions cannot be adequately reviewed in so hasty a glance as we are now taking; but they have lost nothing of their grandeur, nothing of their charm. And while the intended retirement of the Rev. W. Arthur from the Secretariate of the Society is occasion of universal regret, that regret is mitigated by an assurance that, however he may be employed in future years, so long as his life is spared, it will be consecrated still to the extension of the kingdom of Christ in the world, to the full measure of his health and opportunity. Under whatever administration, the Home and Foreign Missions advance together with equal step, and equally bear the impress of Divine approval and benediction.

Our part in the education of the humbler classes, by means of Christian schools, is advancing as vigorously as ever; and even if in future we receive less aid from the national purse in proportion to the outlay, there is at least the consolation of knowing that we have now the advantage of a system well organized, well administered, firmly established, better understood, and more fully appreciated, than ever, with resources more abundant, and with the heart of Wesleyan Methodism beating more strongly than ever in sympathy with the poor and in love towards their children.

With regard to the Theological Institution, perhaps it is enough to note that it prospers in both its Branches; the only occasion of regret being, that the exigencies of Circuits and Stations still render