

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, D.D.

WESLEYAN METHODIST.

The Conference of 1897 drew attention to the fact that fifteen or twenty additional missionaries were needed at once, but could not be sent for lack of funds. Since then, about ten friends have contributed \$17,130 for this special purpose. Six additional men have been sent out and it is hoped that more will soon follow.

In 1861, when there were 13 circuits and 43 ministers in London, the Chapel Building Fund was established. Now there are 64 circuits and missions, 200 churches, 139 ministers, about 800 local preachers, and 67,234 Sunday-school scholars. The churches that have been built cost \$3,500,000.

In South London a building is about to be erected at a cost of \$125,000 for city mission purposes, similar to the Central Hall Mission, in West London.

A gratifying occurrence has taken place at Ripon, which is a fine exemplification of Church unity. A united prayer-meeting was held in the town hall for a week. All denominations took part. The Dean presided in his turn with the ministers of other denominations. The object was to promote Christian unity among all the Churches.

The publishers of the *Methodist Times* have given \$1,500 to the Treasurer of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal Church first began mission work in Africa in 1833, in South America in 1836, in China in 1847, and in India in 1856. At the present time the church members in full standing in various countries are as follows: In Africa, 4,402; China, 9,334; India, 28,040; South America, 2,084; Japan, 3,369; Mexico, 1,920; Italy, 1,356; Malaysia, Bulgaria and Korea, 688. The Church has also missions in Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and St. Petersburg, which number 37,364 members, thus giving a total membership in all the mission fields of the Methodist Episcopal Church of 87,958.

Every Sunday the ministers and mis-

sionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church preach the gospel in the United States alone in sixteen different languages.

Bishop Fowler says it costs the United States \$120 a year to take care of an un-Christian Indian in Dakota, and but \$7 to care for a Christian Indian. Again, missions have not taken out of the world's pocket-book five per cent. of the money they have put into that pocket-book.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

The general Minutes of the Church, South, just out, shows a membership of 1,462,423, an increase of 37,272 over the previous year. There are 47 Conferences, with an average membership of 31,115. The total amount paid for missions is \$349,426.05, being nearly 24 cents per capita. If we add the woman's contributions of \$74,403.16, we will have \$423,829.21, which is nearly 29 cents per capita.

The meeting of the Joint Commission on Federation was held at Washington, D.C., according to appointment and was a meeting of great harmony. The report submitted by the Southern members of the Commission was adopted. It is recommended that a common catechism, hymn book, and order of public worship be prepared for both Churches. That a united book establishment and printing house be established in China and Japan. That an agreement be entered into not to establish rival churches, where one or other of the churches is already in possession of the place. That both Churches shall be united in their efforts to establish a Protestant University in Washington.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Arrangements are being made to send two missionaries immediately to the Klondike gold fields, one of whom is to be a medical missionary. It is proposed that two others shall follow in the fall of 1898 or the spring of 1899. As the expense of this mission will necessarily be very heavy, an appeal is being made to raise a fund of \$10,000 to meet the requirements.

The work of the Epworth Leagues on behalf of missions is worthy of all praise.