

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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

London was the place at which the Quadrennial of Canadian Methodism assembled in September, and was in session from the 6th to the 24th inclusive. This ecclesiastical assembly never met so far westward before. Never was a body of men more hospitably entertained, and we believe that many will declare that no better General Conference has been held in the Dominion.

In 1823, the now sainted Rev. Robert Corson, a famous pioneer Methodist minister, was sent to the region of which London forms an important part. It was then largely a wilderness. Mr. Corson's first circuit has been divided again and again, so that now it embraces several circuits and even districts.

London is one of the centres which may be regarded as a Methodist object-lesson. In 1883, when the various branches of the Methodist family united, five of them were represented in London, and only a few of them were self-sustaining; now they are all one body, having nearly a dozen churches, three thousand members, nine thousand attending public worship, and church property valued somewhere about \$180,000.

The Absent.

During the past year, Drs. Stafford, Pirritte and Douglas, and Revs. J. Gray and W. H. Laird, have finished their course; but if we review the whole decade, we are reminded that of the five honoured brethren who have filled the office of General Superintendent, only one remains in the Church militant, our present beloved incumbent, Rev. A. Carman, D.D. Long may he be spared to us.

Of the 198 ministers and laymen who attended the first General Conference in 1874. Fifty-three are known to be dead: 112 ministers have died during the quadrennium. Of those who attended the said Conference we only find the names

of twenty-eight in the list of the delegates of the present assembly, while more than thirty of those in attendance were never so honoured before.

The Fraternal Delegates.

Rev. H. J. Pope, ex-President of the English Wesleyan Conference, conveyed the greetings of the parent body and of the Irish Conference to their brethren in Canada. He discharged his duties in a highly creditable manner, both in the pulpit on Sabbath and in Conference. He attended the Conference sessions every day for a week, and again and again he expressed his admiration for the debating power of the Conference. Two debates which he heard, the Itinerancy, and the Epworth League Movement, he pronounced to be among the best he had ever heard. Mr. Pope endeared himself to Canadian Methodists, for as representative to Canada he spent nearly all his time in our territory, and the only regret he felt was that he could not extend a visit to the Maritime Provinces.

The Methodist Episcopal Church honoured Canada by sending their greetings to us through a native Canadian, though he is now a resident in the United States. Rev. James H. Potts, D.D., received a royal welcome. He was born not far from London, and was born again at Simcoe under the ministry of the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, D.D., a member of this General Conference. The sermons of Dr. Potts and his fraternal address were of an exceeding high order, and were such as will not soon be forgotten. Dr. Potts is perfectly deaf, and yet he always looks cheerful and happy.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sent the Rev. E. E. Hoss, D.D., as their fraternal messenger; and the Board of Bishops may rest assured, that though they had previously honoured Canada by sending