

the first session. After devotional exercises five ministers were nominated for the presidential chair, and after three rounds of voting Rev. John Watson was declared elected. He comes from a good Primitive stock in the north of England, and has had a varied ministerial career, having laboured in Australia and South Africa, and is now principal of the college in Manchester. He is reputed to be one of the most cultured ministers in the Connexion. Mr. W. E. Parker, of Manchester, was elected vice-president, and Rev. R. S. Blair secretary. Rev. T. Mitchell enters upon his duties as book steward. Various committees for the furtherance of business were appointed; sixteen ministers were reported to have died. Letters of condolence were sent to the bereaved families; seven ministers, one of whom was expelled, were separated from the Conference; twelve were granted a superannuated relation, and two asked to be allowed to re-enter the active work. Forty-one probationers were received into full connection and thirty-eight received on probation; a great number were placed on the reserve list and eleven were sent to college. A gloom fell upon the Conference when a telegram was received communicating the sad news of the death of the Rev. Thomas Guttery. A deputation was sent from the Conference to attend the funeral. There had been such a plethora of candidates for the ministry that several had been kept for years on the reserve list. At this Conference a considerable number were dropped, as they are all twenty-five years of age or even more, and there is no probability that their services will be required for years to come. The circuits were requested not to recommend any candidates but such as are first-class men. Two ministers from other Churches applied to be admitted, but were refused. The statistical report stated that there was an increase of twenty-two Sunday-schools and 6,526 scholars, of whom 3,720 are above fourteen years of age. There are 10,381 juvenile and 8,510 adult abstainers. Two Sundays in the year were set apart, one for the Sunday-school and the other for temperance. The religious services were powerful, and at the Sabbath afternoon camp-meeting four preaching stands were occupied. The singing and the procession to the field were such as Scotland has not often witnessed. Several delegates occupied the city pulpits, including that of the cathedral. There were also a missionary, a temperance, and a tea-meeting. Gifts amounting to more

than \$20,000 had been received from various persons for different connexional objects, chiefly churches. There is a connexional insurance society which has been of great service to the Connexion, as it has donated most of its profits to the erection of churches. A new departure had been taken in respect to the Book-Room, the wisdom of which some questioned, as it was thought to be too great an undertaking. The premises, however, have been opened, and the hope is indulged that the future will even be more prosperous than the past. The great question of the Conference was that of union with the Bible Christian Church. Rev. F. W. Bourne attended the Conference in the interests of union. While the subject was under discussion Dr. Dewart arrived and had a most cordial reception. An editor says: "His account of the Methodist Church of Canada was a very rosy one. Union has there been a great success, and no one would think of going back to the old state of things. No doubt many will be disposed to say there are difficulties here in the Old Country that did not exist in Canada. But Dr. Dewart assured us that this was not the case, that the difficulties were quite as great, but that when once it was felt that the proposal was of God and would be for the advantage of the Church, all these difficulties melted away." We almost think that the Doctor will be at a loss to know which Conference gave him the most royal welcome. His experience on Methodist union would be of great value, but it seems that the day of union in England has not arrived. A committee has been appointed to consider and report at a future Conference. Rev. W. Herridge, of Brampton, was also at Conference, and at the close of Dr. Dewart's address he was introduced and addressed the Conference. Mr. Herridge was the president of the Primitive Methodist Conference in Canada when the union was accomplished, and signed the document of union on behalf of the Primitive Methodist Conference. He spoke well, and quite touched the heart of the Conference by the story of his conversion exactly fifty years ago that night in a Primitive Methodist class-meeting. Mr. Hartley, who has been a most munificent contributor to the Church funds, now proposes to head a scheme for the enlargement of the college and to afford increased facilities for the education of the rising ministry. He gave \$25,000 to the Jubilee Fund, and will give \$20,000, or may be \$25,000, to the