

W. L. Watkinson, editor, is the appointee to the Methodist Episcopal General Conference to be held in 1896.

It is a matter of deep regret that, owing to the financial difficulties of the Joyful News Mission, the Rev. T. Champness has been compelled to recall sixty of his agents, though he hopes to keep these employed who are in the foreign work in India, Ceylon, China, South Africa and West Africa, and probably a few at home.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Newfoundland Conference. — Harbour Grace was the seat of this Conference, Rev. W. Swan was elected President and Rev. J. T. Newman Secretary. The ex-president, Dr. Milligan, a most enthusiastic educationist, said that the Government had set apart \$10,000 more for educational purposes than was expected. This was joyful news.

There was only one death reported, that of Rev. G. P. Story; five young men were ordained to the full work of the ministry. The Statistical Committee reported an increase of ten Sunday-schools, 104 teachers, and 642 scholars. The increase in the membership is 991.

Japan Conference. — This Conference gathering took place at Tokyo and was in session six days. There were present seven Canadian and nineteen Japanese ministers. Three were ordained at Conference, making twenty-nine in all. There were three probationers recommended for ordination. Dr. Macdonald was re-elected President, an indication that the Doctor's popularity does not wane.

The ladies of the six Tokyo Methodist churches gave a reception to the members of Conference in a new Japanese house, where they were regaled with fruit, ice-cream and cake.

The Conference Sunday was similar to those of Canada. The love-feast was entirely in Japanese, but instead of bread and water, trays with small cups of tea and nice assorted cakes were served. Rev. W. Elliott presided. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. B. Hashimoto. Dr. Macdonald preached in the evening and all present felt it a profitable waiting upon God.

The *Gokyo* is the *Christian Guardian* of Japan Methodism, and it will henceforth represent at least three branches of Methodism. Two committees were appointed, one relating to union and another to co-operating in evangelistic and other kinds of church work. There are now 2,070 members, an increase of eighty-nine,

there is also a large increase in the number of Sunday-school scholars.

Since our last issue the mission premises in China have all been destroyed by rioters connected with the Vegetarian Society. Happily the missionaries have escaped with their lives, though they endured much suffering. Some other missionaries and their families have been put to death. All the missions in Western China appear to be in great jeopardy.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

During the month of September forty-three Annual Conferences were appointed to be held in the United States alone.

Bishop Foster passed his seventy-fifth birthday very quietly. Only a few of his friends knew of it.

Persecution has befallen the mission in Mexico City; school-teachers and converts have been maltreated. A widow and her two sons have been imprisoned simply because the latter had been withdrawn from the municipal, and sent to the mission school. A Methodist school-master also had been imprisoned.

In three weeks Bishop Mallalieu travelled two thousand miles on hot, dusty roads, preached nine sermons, delivered seven special addresses, besides attending personally to his large correspondence.

Bishop Walden recently purchased a suitable lot in Honolulu, Hawaii, for a tabernacle to cost \$2,500, which will be the first Methodist church in the island. It will help the work in Japan.

BIBLE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

This Conference met in Thorne Memorial Chapel, Barnstaple. James Thorne was one of the founders of the Connexion and this was the year of his centenary. His son, Rev. John Thorne, from South Australia, came to England to take part in the centenary services, and he was elected President of Conference.

On the Conference Sunday services began at seven o'clock, a.m. Dr. Dewart preached in the evening and gave his official address the day following, which was a great missionary day, when the Chinese and Australian visitors also delivered earnest addresses. Dr. Dewart greatly pleased the Conference.

The union question was the most important which came before the Conference. Principal Watson, President of the Primitive Methodist Conference, attended as a fraternal delegate. Dr. Dewart spoke first, and detailed the results of union in Canada. Several members of Conference took part in the discussion. A committee