

mean positive suffering in many cases, especially on our Home Missions, unless the people come promptly to the rescue. In another column will be found an open letter on this subject, issued by authority of the General Board. We sincerely trust that it will be pondered by the people on all the domestic missions, and that they will respond cheerfully to the appeal therein contained. Let there also be an earnest effort on every circuit to roll up the largest contributions for missions ever reported in the history of the Society.

An Interesting Picture.

A LITTLE over a week ago there came by mail to the Mission Rooms a large square parcel marked "photograph." On opening it we were greeted by what seemed to be "an innumerable company of"—babies. Taking another look we read, "The 'Riot Babies,' Chentu, China." This introduction being satisfactory, we gave ourselves to the pleasure of a closer inspection of the youthful travelers who have had so wonderful an experience. Our next thought was gratitude to the Father of all mercies that amid dangers known and unknown, and experiences of hardship both before leaving Chentu, and afterward during the long journey of two thousand miles down the river, with few of the comforts deemed indispensable in travelling, the parents had been enabled to bring their little ones safely to Shanghai. Our readers will be pleased to have a photogravure acquaintance, at least, with these interesting little friends, and they can be accommodated by turning to the first page.

The Society's Anniversary.

ON the 3rd of last month the seventy-first anniversary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church was celebrated, in connection with the meeting of the General Board. A good congregation assembled in the spacious auditorium of St. James' Church, and, with very few exceptions, remained until the benediction was pronounced at half-past ten o'clock. Edward Gurney, Esq., of Toronto, made a model chairman, opening the proceedings with a thoughtful and appropriate address that gave a good key-note to the subsequent proceedings. An abstract of the Annual Report was read by the General Secretary, and the Financial Statement by the General Treasurer, the Hon. J. C. Aikins.

The speaking was of a high order, and held the attention of the congregation without a break. The General Superintendent was in excellent vein, and delivered an address bristling with good points and aglow with intense earnestness. J. A. M. Aikins, Esq., Q.C., of Winnipeg, was the next speaker, and showed himself as capable on the missionary platform as at the bar. His address was appropriate, logical and eloquent, and won unstinted praise. Dr. David Stevenson, of the West China Mission, delighted the audience with graphic pictures of life in

the Flowery Kingdom, touched many a tender chord with illustrations of China's spiritual needs and of the desire of the missionaries for the salvation, not the punishment, of their persecutors, and stirred the missionary enthusiasm of the people by earnest appeals for reinforcements to carry the Gospel to China's waiting millions. Dr. Potts was announced for the closing address, and, had there been time, would doubtless have given a fitting conclusion to a delightful and inspiring meeting; but, as the hour was somewhat late, he contented himself with giving out the Doxology, which was sung with old-time fervor, and the audience dispersed, delighted with all that they had heard. Take it all in all, we have not known a better anniversary in the past twenty years. The excellent choir of St. James' Church added much to the interest of the occasion.

The General Board of 1895.

IT may be safely affirmed that on no previous occasion were the proceedings of the General Board of Missions watched with such keen and absorbing interest as during the recent session held in Montreal. It was well understood that questions of exceptional difficulty had to be dealt with, and there was a general conviction that they must be dealt with in a very thorough way, so that there might be no ground for remaining uncertainty, or cause for further agitation. All this was fully realized by the members of the Board, and they entered upon the task assigned them with a determination to evade no responsibility, but by patient and painstaking inquiry to get to the bottom of every difficulty, and then to render only such decisions as would be justified by the evidence before them. The *personnel* of the Board was admirable, its temper beyond all praise. It would have been difficult to select in the entire Methodist Church a Board of the same number better qualified to deal with difficult questions, or more resolute in their purpose to do justice, in the fear of God, to all concerned. And no one who witnessed the proceedings could fail to be convinced that the Board was under Divine guidance. From first to last there was no excitement, no signs of a partisan bias, but a calm, judicial temper throughout, and a humble waiting upon God that gave promise of the best results. Only on the supposition of Divine guidance, in answer to prayer, can anyone account for the Christian temper manifested, and the unanimous conclusions reached. Looking back over the whole matter we can only say, "It is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes."

From all parts of the connexion we are receiving expressions of satisfaction with the action of the Board, and the acceptance of that action by the missionaries. In letters and conversations such expressions as the following have been common: "The whole country was watching with intense interest to see what you would say and do," said one, "and there is great satisfaction with the result." "The matter was referred to in our Conference Missionary