

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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

WESLEYAN METHODIST.

For the third time in fifty years the Conference has met in Birmingham, the metropolis of the "Black Country," which has long been a stronghold of Methodism. This is the 151st Conference. A wonderful change since, 1743 when John Wesley wrote thus respecting himself and his brother Charles—"He," Charles, "looked like a soldier of Christ. His clothes were torn to tatters. The mob of Wednesday, Darlestone, and Walsall had taken him by night out of the Society House and carried him about for several hours with a full purpose to murder him."

Now the citizens, headed by the mayor, welcome the Conference, 270 homes were provided for ministers in the city, and more than 160 other families in other circuits welcomed them as guests. The Rev. Walter Green was elected President. He has been in the ministry since 1855. He was first a missionary in Barbadoes. He raised \$500,000 for the Worn-out Ministers' Fund. Dr. Waller was re-elected Secretary.

This year about seven hundred ministers changed circuits, all of whom, except 150, were previously engaged. Fifty-four probationers were ordained, and of 108 candidates only sixty-eight were accepted.

The question of separated chairman occupied a long time and was finally rejected.

The appointment of Miss Dawson as one of the lay representatives excited much interest. She was deemed ineligible because of her sex.

An address was presented by the Nonconformist denominations, which was signed by representatives of all the Churches, including the Friends and the Salvation Army.

No representative from abroad

occasioned more interest than Prince Ademuzima, from Lagos, Western Africa, who is a class-leader and local preacher and speaks good English. He pleaded hard for a training institution for native ministers in Western Africa. He denounced the effects of the drink traffic on the native races. With great energy he urged his hearers to lift up their voices against the traffic, "which was a shame to England."

At the West-End London Mission fourteen ministers are employed, twenty-two halls and chapels are occupied, twenty lay agents are devoted to house-to-house visitation, with seventy to eighty sisters going among the most needy of the people.

Rev. Thomas Champness reports that ninety-two men and twenty-five women are employed in the Joyful News Mission.

The conversation on the state of the work of God brought out the fact that in making up for a loss in the membership from emigration, deaths, etc., 47,934 new members had been received, and that the net increase was 5,650.

The Worn-out Ministers' and Widows' Fund received from the *Methodist Times* \$1,634, and from the *Methodist Recorder* \$625. The Trust Assurance Company gave \$4,000, and the Book-Room \$2,000.

The number of deaths was very large, forty in all, thirty-two in England, one in Ireland, and seven in foreign mission fields.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION.

The training institution for native ministers, at Tientsin, China, in charge of the veteran Rev. John Innocent, is doing good work. In Shantung Circuit there is much itinerating, and during last year 173 baptisms were performed.