

Agassiz, as to the origin of all species by direct creative energy, he is able to conceive of a hypothesis which, while admitting evolution, in no wise compromises faith in the Mosaic account of the introduction of man. As a new reading harmonizes the Mosaic cosmogony with the geologic so a new reading may harmonize the Bible account of the origin of man, at least, with the creative evolution theory of Mivart. It is *possible* that the Psalmist had reference to this when he said: "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substances, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, *when as yet there was none of them.*" We do not well, at any rate, when we cry "Atheist! Infidel!" at the Scientist. Let us

examine his facts, and should we find his generalization logical, instead of throwing away our Bibles seek for that interpretation of the sacred text which will make truth in Nature and truth in the Bible like the twin pictures of the stereoscope—one beautiful view, blending on the eye of faith and the eye of reason; or like the binary stars, shining in entrancing vision and mingled splendour upon the reverent beholder. We would do well to heed the words of Dr. Carpenter:

"The theologian should accept as a fellow-worker with himself every truth-seeker who uses the understanding given him by the breath of the Almighty in tracing out the Divine order of the Universe; and admit into Christian communion every one who desires to be accounted a disciple of Christ and humbly endeavours to follow in the steps of his Divine Master"

## RELIGIOUS AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, M.A.

### WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE, ENGLAND.

Of the sixteen hundred ministers in the active work in Great Britain, about six hundred have to change their stations every year. In a great many of these cases correspondence has been carried on between the ministers and the stewards, and a mutual understanding has been come to which the Conference seldom disturbs

The whole number of members is given at three hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and seventy-six. Only in nine districts has there been an increase of members, while in twenty-five there has been a decrease. The number reported on trial is twenty-three thousand, nine hundred and sixty-six. The net decrease exceeds three thousand. Not-

withstanding the decrease of membership, it is claimed that the Connexion is in excellent condition, and through the medium of the Thanksgiving Fund has shown a remarkable degree of vitality. The total amount now promised on behalf of the Thanksgiving Fund is eight hundred thousand dollars. The decrease in the membership is supposed to be largely owing to the depression in business, and the consequent emigration of large numbers to other countries.

Thirty ministers died during the year. There were seven applications of ministers from other churches for admittance into the Conference, all of which were declined except three from Ireland. The number of candidates for the ministry was much greater than was needed. More