

THE REV. JOHN RATTENBURY.

Mr. RATTENBURY was born at Newport, Monmouthshire, June 26, 1806. After receiving several years' schooling at Newport, he went to reside in Manchester, where he joined the Wesleyan-Methodists. His first religious experiences were very remarkable, extreme religious distress being suddenly and permanently transformed into great religious joy and Christian zeal. He often, when a youth, wandered about the streets of Manchester at four o'clock in the morning, waiting for the commencement of the very early religious services which were held by the Methodists nearly half a century ago.

Young Rattenbury gave considerable proof of religious zeal, pulpit capacity, and consistency of character, and, after spending some time in Manchester as a lay preacher, he was fully set apart to the work of the ministry. Stourbridge was his first circuit, from which he removed to Sheffield; and he has travelled in first-class circuits ever since. Macclesfield, Leeds, York, Manchester, London, and Bristol have each shared the benefits of his ministerial efficiency. Few men in Methodism—in fact not one of his standing—have laboured so hard by occasional and extra pulpit services for the prosperity of his own Church. In all parts of the Connection and in all seasons of the year he has been in "labours more abundant," and so he will continue to the end.



THE REV. JOHN RATTENBURY, PRESIDENT OF THE WESLEYAN-METHODIST SOCIETY FOR 1861-2.
FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Every post office, being a money-order office, at which the Postmaster-General shall permit deposits to be received for remittance to his principal office, will be open for that purpose, and for the repayment of moneys withdrawn, during the hours appointed for the transaction of money-order business at the said post office. Any post office, not being a money-order office, at which the Postmaster-General shall permit deposits to be received or repaid, shall be open for that purpose during such hours and on such days as the Postmaster-General shall determine.

Deposits of one shilling, or of any number of shillings, or of pounds and shillings, will be received from any depositor at the post office savings-banks provided the deposits made by such depositor in any year ending on the 31st day of December do not exceed £30, and provided the total amount standing in such depositor's name in the books of the Postmaster-General do not exceed £150, exclusive of interest. When the principal and interest together, standing to the credit of any one depositor, amount to the sum of £200 all interest will cease so long as the same funds continue to amount to the said sum of £200.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—It appears from the recent Census returns prepared by the Registrar-General that the house accommodation of England and Wales has increased more rapidly than the population since the commencement of the century. Thus, in 1801, the average number of persons living in each house was 5·81; in 1811, 5·82; in 1821, 5·83; in 1831, 5·66; in 1841, 5·44; in 1851, 5·51; and in 1861, 5·40. The gratifying improvement exhibited by these figures has arisen principally, it will be observed, since the acceleration of the emigration movement. The number of uninhabited houses at the date of the last Census was larger than at any previous period of the century, probably in consequence of the increased tendency to suburban life and the desertion of properties in the heart of old towns. Taking the unoccupied houses into account, the number of persons was 5·61 per house in 1801, and 5·15 in 1861. There were also more houses in course of erection in April than at any previous Census, so that the mass of the people—except in parts of the metropolis and the great towns in the north of England—were never better housed than at present.