THE WESLEYAN, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1883.



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calling them Nazarenes. Nor is there evidence that it originated with the Christians themselves. Brethren, disciples, believers, saints, are the terms in most common use in the New Testament. The word Christian is only used twice again (chap. xxvi. 28; I Peter iv. 16); and in both cases as a name given by those outside. There is little doubt that the name originated with the Gentiles, who began to see that this new sect was so far distinct from the Jews, as naturally to receive a new designation. And the form of the word implies that it came from the

word Christ was often in the conversation of the believers, as constantly in their letters. Christ was the title of Him whom they avowed as their leader. They confessed that this Christ had been crucified ; but they asserted that He was risen from the dead, and that He guided them by His invisible power. Thus Christian as a name naturally found its place in the reproachful language of their enemies. It is remarkable that the people of Antioch were notorious for inventing names of derision, and for turning their wit into the channels of redicule.

the Holy Ghost, that of prophesying, n the sense of foretelling future events, was granted to a few persons. Agabus was one of these, and twenty years afterwards be appears exercising the same gift (chap. xi. 10). His prediction was remarkably fulfilled, for no less than four famines are recorded as having occurred in the reign