

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES.

FEBRUARY 1st, 1856.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA was held in the beautiful Wesleyan Church at Yorkville, on the evening of December 9th, and was attended by a very respectful and highly gratified audience. We need not now enter into a detail of the proceedings, as this has been correctly done in the Conference paper, by a valued friend of the Society, whose report we insert as far as our space allows; the passages not appearing here being portions of the Annual Report, now distributed in every direction. On no former occasion were the statements made more pertinent, nor so ample and satisfactory, and never before was so large an income, so extensive a field of operation, and hopes and intentions so glowing, announced. The presence of cordial laymen on the platform with ministers of the Connexion was what was desired, and the frank and full testimony to the utility of the Society of a very intelligent Commissioner appointed by the Government on Indian affairs, was exceedingly acceptable; while, in addition to appropriate addresses from other esteemed Ministers, the admirable addresses of two eminent Ministers of our Church, who were present at the formation of the Society, gave unusual interest and delight to the Thirty-first Anniversary, and made us wish, while they were speaking, that they would favour the public with the entire facts—invaluable facts associated with the origination and first efforts of the Society.

It would have been enough to expand cramped minds to hear of a work, the purposes of which are so varied, the movements of which are so swift, and the spiritual and social blessings of which are so multifarious:—the Aborigines of Canada to have the Gospel continually; the enlargement and accomplishment of a Ministerial and Native Agency; the New Settlements of this country, of the widest range, to have the gospel; the famished tribes of the Hudson's Bay Territory everywhere to have the same gospel, and the reformation of French Canadian Romanists on the leading Protestant principles of Luther and of Wesley.

We say this is the Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Society, and that is the truth; but for twice thirty-one years the Missionary spirit of Methodism has displayed itself, and been incalculably aiding to make Canada a praise in the earth; and the commencement of the Society was the creation of no essential of Methodism, but a wise and wanted modification to give greater force and amplitude to its essential designs and energies. But explicitly let it be said, that whatever human energy may have done, the prompting, and guiding, and prospering power has been Divine, and to that Power be every hallelujah raised. The talents of the Society's agency have been diversified, and the pecuniary gifts small, then large. The Baptists started on their high Missionary career with some £13 of income; this Society had during its first