

REPORT.

The principle which actuates the genuine missionary band, is derived from heaven ; and whether traced back to its source, followed onward through its progress, or contemplated in its final results, recommends itself to every rational creature.— That principle is benevolence—the love or benevolence of Christ which constraineth us to employ our talents in promoting the salvation of lost men. In the life of the blessed Redeemer we have a living personification of love ; and *when* the professed followers of the Saviour imitate this example, but not till *then*, may they with justice claim the name of christian. Times have been, when but little of this energetic, Christ-like, benevolence, existed in the world ; but these have not been the palmy days of the Church. The missionary zeal and enterprize of a church furnish an unquestionable criterion whereby we may judge of its religious attainments at any given point of time. It is utterly unreasonable and vain to expect a community to “cry and sigh” for the condition of others, when spiritual desolation reigns in their own souls. Often and truthfully has it been observed that “charity,” or the love of God “begins at home.” Self, furnishes the starting point, and the first scene of its operations ; and it differs mainly from the sinful, self-love of the world, in that it rests not *at home*. Disinterested and expansive, like its Divine author, the missionary spirit “stretches its arms like seas,” and as the limit of its operations, “grasps in all the shore.” Wherever ignorance, sin and misery have established their court—whether in civilized or savage nations, whether in the “city full” or amid the wild scenery of the back woods—the church, imbued with a missionary spirit, finds an appropriate place for carrying on her operations.