

men occupied in business, women encumbered with families, ladies tenderly and delicately brought up, day-labourers and servant-maids, have enlightened and converted the heathen by providing the means for sending out missionaries. Now, to be employed in any way in making known the word of God, is always an honour, and never an injury. Was not Simon Peter honoured when his boat was selected and borrowed? This was a mark of special favour of which a king or an emperor might have been proud. This was indeed an honour, but it was no injury. Our Lord only requested the use of that which was unemployed. He perceived the fishermen were gone out of their boats, and were washing their nets; and as all the vessels were lying idle, he requested the use of one for teaching the people. The Jews were required to teach the words of the law to their children, not by neglecting their labour, but by improving their leisure hours: "Thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. vi. 7.) Jesus Christ will thank no man for being idle under a pretence of serving him. He does not wish you to leave your business, to starve your children, or to defraud your creditors, in order to give your time and money to his cause. He asks only for those superfluities which are unemployed in the necessary concerns of life. Gather up these fragments of your time and property, and present them to him; and he will so accept and bless your offering, that with them he will feed, and instruct, and convert, and save the world.—*Rev. Samuel Jackson.*

The Wesleyan.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, FEB. 18, 1841.

SINCE our last, the union, or rather re-union of these Provinces has been proclaimed; by which they become again one immense colony, in extent much greater than Great Britain and Ireland. This we consider to be an important event—a measure which we trust will result in general unanimity and prosperity to the country. We are no politicians; but let this Legislative Union of the Provinces have a fair trial—and our noble Constitution, when restored in a new Parliament, have fair play—and we doubt not that Canada will become one of the happiest and most prosperous Colonies of the British Crown. Let it then be the prayer of the Christian Churches, that such may be the result.

DECLARATION.

LEADERS' MEETING, ST. JAMES STREET CHAPEL,
Montreal, February 10, 1841.

THE following paragraph from the *Guardian* of the 3d inst. was read:—

"From all the information I have obtained, I believe a majority of the members of the Wesleyan Societies in the Eastern or English Townships of Lower Canada, as well as considerable portions of the Societies in Montreal, Quebec, and several towns and villages in that Province, would unite with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, were its Ministers sent among them."

"E. RYERSON."

Resolved, 1. That this meeting has heard with astonishment the statement made in the extract from the *Guardian* which has now been read, and believes it to be utterly untrue in reference to the members of any one of our Societies or Congregations in this Eastern or Lower Canada District; and would especially declare and record its cordial, unwavering, and unabated attachment to the British Conference, and to those Ministers of that Conference now labouring in this city and throughout the District—and that Mr. E. RYERSON and his friends are entirely mistaken as to any encouragement they might expect to meet with in any

attempt of theirs to divide or disturb our united and peaceful Society or Congregations in this city or circuit.

Resolved, 2. That the Declaration which has now been unanimously agreed to, be published in the next number of the *Wesleyan*.

(Signed,)

J. HILTON, Sen., *Steward & Leader.*
W. LUNN, "
J. FERRIER, "
W. PAWSON, "
C. WALKER, "
J. HOWELL, "
R. LATHAM, "
J. PATTON, "
P. REYNOLDS, "
G. ROGERS, "
T. JENKING, "
J. GRIFFITH, "
J. MILLEN, "
J. HILTON, Jun. "
R. WRIGHT, "
R. WADSWORTH, "
J. BEATTY, "
F. BETHIEL, "
R. CAMPBELL, *Steward.*

The above are the whole of the Stewards and Leaders belonging to the Wesleyan Society in Montreal, with the exception of Mr. JOHN MATTHEWSON, who is at present in Europe.

DURING the last four weeks, special religious services have been held daily in the Wesleyan Chapel, St. James Street, in this city, with a view to the revival and increase of the spirit of piety and zeal among the members of the Wesleyan Society and Congregations, and the religious benefit of all who might be disposed to attend them. And we have the pleasure to say, that these services have been all numerously attended, and, with very few exceptions, by persons apparently under real and deep concern for the salvation of their souls. A goodly number have already, through faith in the Divine Redeemer, passed from a state of penitential distress and mourning, to the peaceful and privileged condition of those who, from experience, can say, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Some fallen professors have been restored—and the comfort, faith and love of believers in a very encouraging degree promoted and established. Beside the assistance which the stationed ministers have received from Rev. Messrs. TURNER, STINSON, RAINE, and MANLY, who have visited Montreal during the continuance of these services, they have been favoured with the valuable labours of the Rev. J. CAUGHEY, who, during the last three months, has so eminently contributed to the revival of religion with which our friends have been favoured in Quebec. His powerful, awakening discourses—earnest, affectionate, and faithful appeals, and his vehement longings and efforts for the salvation of souls, have arrested general attention, and affected many hearts.

The meetings, it is expected, will be continued for some time longer—and when terminated, we hope we shall be able to report that they have resulted in a large ingathering of souls to the visible and spiritual fold of the Saviour.

REMARKABLE DEATH OF A WESLEYAN MINISTER.—Died, on the 28th November, at Bigton, in the Lerwick Circuit, Shetland, the Reverend WILLIAM SHEPHERD, in the 24th year of his age, and the first of his ministry. He was drowned while walking too near the sea on a small island, at the south of the mainland, by a sudden swell of the ocean, which overwhelmed him, and carried him away! He was a young man of deep and earnest piety, and his early removal is a matter of universal regret.

We have received the "Wesleyan Missionary Notices" for January, containing further information concerning the afflictions which have lately befallen our Polynesian Missions. "It appears to be satisfactorily ascertained already, that the Heathen Chiefs were the aggressors in the late unhappy conflicts at Tonga; that the Christians had suffered continual annoyance, and serious injuries both to life and property, from the persecuting spirit of their assailants;—that great and repeated efforts were made by the former to obtain a pacific settlement of the disputes;—that, even when they thought themselves to be under the necessity of carrying on defensive hostilities, they evinced a forbearance, and an anxiety to prevent or diminish the destruction of human life, which contrast very favourably with the ferocious and sanguinary habits of their former state of Heathenism, and prove that Christianity, if it have not yet fully imparted the blessings of peace, has materially mitigated, in the conduct of those who have professed to embrace it, the horrors of warfare;—and, above all, that, in the judgment of Governor Sir GEORGE GREYS, and others most competent to give an opinion, the Missionaries at Tonga have conducted themselves, in their most trying and critical circumstances, as Christians and Missionaries ought to do. We trust and believe that future accounts will confirm the views which we thus express. From the insulated statements which have appeared in the Sydney Journals, the public in general may not have learned the material fact, that the late distressing conflict between the Christian and the Heathen parties in Tonga, is by no means a solitary instance of the kind, but rather one of a long-continued series of similar collisions."

The following extract of a letter from the Rev. CHARLES TUCKER, dated Nukualofa, Tongataboo, April 15, 1840, shews the unsettled state of the Island, and the perilous circumstances of the Mission and Mission families, for some time previous to the tragical catastrophe already narrated in a former number:—

We have been anxiously waiting for an opportunity of forwarding to you communications for some months past, relative to the state of the work of God on this island—not having had any means of sending letters since October, 1839, when I wrote to you per Captain Wright, a whaler. Since then, some very important events have taken place on this island—events affecting the moral and political condition of a great part, if not the whole, of the inhabitants of Tongataboo. Indeed, I consider this to be the most important epoch to Tonga which has occurred since the introduction of Christianity here, as you will learn from the sequel of this letter. Our situation in January and February, as Missionaries, was painful and perilous; but the Lord mercifully supported and preserved us in the day of trial; and, having obtained help of Him, we and ours continue unto this day.

There has been another disturbance on this island, and "the horrid alarm of war" has been sounding in our ears. I cannot state all the particulars of this painful event in this sheet, but have kept a journal of the facts as they occurred, which I shall transcribe and forward by the first favourable opportunity. In the meantime, I send you the following outline of what has taken place:—

On Tuesday, the 14th of January last, the Heathen belonging to Ata, at Hihifo, murdered four of our people, who reside in a fortress about a mile off, while at work, and left another, a little girl, for dead, but who has since recovered. They committed this atrocious act while King Josiah Tubou and his family were on a visit there, which was the greatest insult that the Heathen could offer him. His design in going to Hihifo was, to try to persuade Ata to embrace Christianity; and endeavour to create a kindlier feeling between the Christian and Heathen party there; but his design