

# WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE

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## SALVATION OF INFANTS.

Many strange charges have been brought against Mr. Wesley and the Methodist Church during the century, but one of the strangest is to be found in the "*Home and Foreign Record*, of the Canada Presbyterian Church," for August. In an article under the caption of "The Calvinistic System of Doctrine—Misrepresentation exposed," the writer would fain do something for Calvinism, and seeks to fasten upon Mr. Wesley and his followers, the charge of teaching the monstrous dogma, that "there are infants who die in infancy and perish." It is a cause of regret that the old strife could be renewed, but, as we are not the aggressors, we shall not be guilty of breach of christian duty, if we speak for ourselves. The charges of this letter against Wesley, Watson, and all Methodists who deem it prudent to say anything against Calvinism, is very severe. He says they employ "reckless and unhesitating assertions, unaccompanied by any proof," their zeal is only pretence," "blind hatred to Calvinism lies at the root of it all." All this is certainly refreshing, yet not well calculated to give to the readers of the *Record* a very high opinion of either the piety or honesty of their Methodist brethren. Shocking men these anti-Calvinists; yet we do not know how we can help it—for Dr. Barnes "will not undertake to say whether Mr. Wesley could have been a Calvinist, but he can say that Jonathan Edwards could never have been any thing else." It is not an easy thing under all circumstances, for writers to have their principles at hand to fasten them to the pen's nib—so that the writing shall be the expression of the principle—if it were so, many writers would be saved from a great deal of folly and pain. The Calvinists know right well that we perfectly understand them, if they do not comprehend us—and for them to charge us with misrepresentation, is to charge us with superlative wickedness—it must be a very wicked thing to misrepresent Calvinism. It is reasonable enough when it is presented—and worse when it is re-presented—