

# METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

JANUARY, 1875.

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WE are glad to introduce this first number of the new series of our "Notices" by the presentation of a short account of Methodism in the Island of Newfoundland, from the facile pen of the esteemed President of that Conference, whose future communications, and those of any of our fellow-labourers on the Missions of that Conference, will be welcome at the Mission-Rooms, and to our readers.

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## NEWFOUNDLAND.

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BEFORE introducing to the readers of the MISSIONARY NOTICES, intelligence respecting the present condition of Methodist Missions in this Colony, it is deemed desirable to present a brief summary of facts concerning their origin and history.

Methodism bears date from 1765, as appears from a letter from Rev. Lawrence Coughlan, dated Harbor Grace, November 4th, 1772, and addressed to Rev. John Wesley. Mr. C. had been for ten years one of Mr. W's. travelling preachers before leaving the mother country, and through him ordained by the Bishop of London, and sent to Newfoundland as a missionary in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Here he labored very successfully amid great opposition for seven years, about the close of which he wrote as follows: "I bless God my poor labors in this land have been attended with some little success; some precious souls are gone to glory, and a few more are walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. I am now in the seventh year of my servitude as a missionary." \* \* \* Then stating his physical inability to endure the fatigue longer of travelling by water in small boats, he added these words: "I am, and do confess myself a Methodist. The name I love, and hope I ever shall. The plan which you first taught me I have followed as to doctrine and discipline." \* \* \* The good work begun by this faithful pioneer was carried on chiefly by three godly laymen, John Stretton, Arthur Thomey, and John Hoskins, during the next thirteen years.

In 1785, Rev. John McGeary was sent out by Mr. Wesley, to the great joy of the despised Methodists, and was in labors more abundant for seven