## THE WESLEVAN.

and tells the disciples that Lazarus slept ; on which solved that there is one defect, it delights to confirm pass." (Verse 12.)

TAG

about to consider.

favour.

when they saw him dead on the cross, and his body evidence, and the cold fact is recorded by Mark, carried to the tomb, these facts which could neither " Neither believed they them." (xvi. 13.) be devied nor explained away, mastered their linger-ing faith ; and as in this extremity they all forsook except Thomas, being assembled, and the doors being hen und fled, so they were now all reduced to the con- shut for fear of the Jews, " came Jesus and stood in dation of "unbelievers;" but by that very means the midst, and said unto them, Peace be anto you." were providentially prepared to become better wit- (John xx. 19.) Luke says that it was while the two Lesses of his resurrection from the dead.

will get be found in any one of the Gospels separate- wor is) he suddenly "stood in the midst of them." Is a we must seek it in them all.

The first event related to the early visit of Mary resurrection, " that they were terrified and affrighted Magathene and the other Mary to the sepulchre on and supposed that they had seen" not Jesus, but "a the Sabladd morphing. (Matt. xxviii, 1.) Their ob- spirit." (xxiv, 36, 37.) Jesus then appeals to their ject was not to witness his resurrection, but, as a natural senses to test the truth and certainty of his token of affection, they " had bought sweet spices, boddly presence alive. " Behold my hands and my thet they might come and anoint him." (Mark xvi, feet," (what an appeal!) "that it is I myself : handle 1 ) To their surprise, they found the stone rolled line, and see ; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones. as away from the door of the sepulchre, and the body ve see me have." (Verse 39.) "And he showed tone. They complained that some one had taken them his hands and his feet." And did they not hanhindow y. Mary Magdalene ran and told this to Peter, dle him ? Did not they also " put their finger into and John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. Feter and the prints of the nails, and thrust their hands into his John, doubting whether the body could have been side in O blessed indubitable testimony of the world's removed, ran, and saw, and be deved; and believed salvation ! Yet more :- he asked, " Have ye here not that Jesus was risen, for it is added, " For any meat ? And they gave him a piece of broilas yet they knew not the Scruttures, that he 'must ed fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and rise agail from the dead. ' (John xx. 9.) Here, did eat before them." (Verses 41-43.) "And ye," then, we have the fact ascertained by the evi- said he, "are witnesses of these things." (Verse decay of the two Marys, Peter and John, that early [48.) on the morning of the Subbath the body was gone ; Thomas was absent. Those who have singled him but the fix user des, so far from attributing its ab- out as an unbeliever have not failed to fix upon his sence to the resurrection, "quietly wentaway to their absence as another ground to impeach his apostolic own home-." (John xx. 10.) Icharacter. This is certainly gratuitous, and without

The accounts in the different Gospels are some May sail, "Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well ;" glad, what varied; but all, except Lake, state expressly, probably, to be furnished with so good a reason for that Jesus appeared hest to Mary after his resurren-not characting themselves again to the power of the tion (Matt. xxviii, 9; Mark xvi, 9; John xx, 14) Jews. I Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Luzarus Luke agrees with the other three, that the resurrecis dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was tion was announced to her by an angel. Matthew not there, to the intent ye may believe ; no vertheless associates the other Mary with her and says, that af-Ist us go unto him." (John Si. 1-15) All held ter an angel had directed them to tell his disciples their peace but Thomas : " Then said Thomas unto that Jesus was risen, and that they were to go into his fellow-disciples. Let us also go, that we may die Galilee, where they should see him, he himself sudwith him." (Verse 16.) How strange it is that men denly appeared unto the women, and they " held him of learning and piety,-writers and Preachers,-not-by the feet." when he re-delivered to them the meswithstanding the charity which hopeth all things, -, sage to his disciples." (xxxiii. 5-10.) After this should find in this affecting story the evidence that Mary hastered to tell them that had been with Thomas's dispesition was always morese and way- him, that she had seen Jesus alive, and that he ward, yet he was the only one among them that reservould meet them in Galilee ; but " they believed her ponded to his Lord's ipvitation, and proposed to his not." (Mark xvi. 11.) Luke says, that the two follow-disciples to go, though it was to die with him ! Marys told it to the eleven ; (xxiv. 9;) and their In any other case, and but for the unwarranted con-works seemed to them as idle tales, and they" (all struction put upon his after-conduct, this would have 'the eleven) " believed them not." (Verse 11.) Peter been thought to have entitled him to the character of ran to the sepulchre, and saw that the door was open, "devoted," as much as that has obtained for him the the body gone, and the grave-clothes left; but, inepithet of " unbelieving," Thomas. But the human stead of that confirmation convincing him, he only mind is naturally bent the other way. Having re- " wondered in himself at that which had come to

it by another, even in an Apostle, and out of words. The next appearance recorded is that (mentioned by as unfeigned and as expressive of disinterested devo- Mark, but more largely by Luke) to two of the discitedness as ever proceeded from the lips of man. Dr. ples as they went to Emmaus. During the journey Adam Clarke has avoided and severely reproved this they had abundant proof that they were walking and error, but has himself fallen into that which we are talking with a person, and not a spirit. They saw, they heard, in all probability they touched him ; and final-I claim, then, for Thomas a degree of chedient de- ly, in the physical act of breaking bread which he votedness to his Master, at least equal to that of any gave then, their eyes, which till then, had been mis of his fellow-Apostles. There is not a tittle of evi- raculously holden, were opened,-they knew him,dence to the contrary ; and the incident we have and he vanished out of their sight. They had now been considering, taken by itself, is decidedly in his had not merely the declaration of Mary, but the actual testimony of their own senses, applied in the That a general knowledge prevailed of what Jesus same manner as is universally admitted to produce "hal spoken concerning his resurrection, is evident conclusive evidence as to every other physical fact in from the conduct of the Jews ; who, on the ground the world. With joy in their hearts these two immeof his having said, " After three days I will rise diately hastened back to Jerusatem, no doubt feeling again," (Matt. xvvii. 63,) obtained a guard from that they could at once convince the other nine of the Pilate, " and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the glorious event. Alas ! in vain they might urge that store, and setting a watch ;" and though the disci- they had walked with him for nearly eight niles .ples had before heard the same truth from his lips, talked with him,-seen him-heard him.-and taken and seemed to place belief in his declarations, yet bread at his hands ; to them it was still but hearsay

that returned from Emmaus "yet spake" of their

Let us trace the history of these events. The whole having seen him alive, that (as if to confirm their Yet so far were they even then from believing in his

the least found rians gives the auy way crimi Lord make an Apostles be d were not pres women at the s ywent to E:nu those same tw

dision, had no But though

doned the ap his fellows : unto him, We them, Except nails, and put and thrust m lieve." (John ject to Thom: believe until i of evidence, a dence, which pose him to a men who said did their word not you eight went to Em think that the pose you wou cerned, it is l must be mist: unless I have and without will L." The which would As far as we

"And afte within, and the doors bei Peace be up Reach hither reach hither and be not 27.) And di No; the ev convinced h and forcibly Thomas as my God ?"

St. John : because tho: sed are they ed." (Ver ly taken as if a reproof to the other believed wi Mark, who appeared u upbraided t and hardne them which 14) Awa cious epith still have i " unbelievi so of the re

Having common a ground wit show the u St. John.

The trut pending w be risen fro that fact w sential imp attested, ( not, it was