

SUPPLEMENT TO

the Religious Repository.

ADDRESS,

TO THE PREACHERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN UPPER CANADA.

DEAR BRETHREN:

Permit me, to address you on a subject of which you are not ignorant, and in which you most undoubtedly will feel to take an interest. Every intimation of favour towards us,—Every benediction bestowed on us,—whether great or small, let it come from whom, or what source it may, calls for our attention, and demands, our gratitude; more especially, when the great and holy being in whom all perfection centres, and, against whom we have committed ten thousand crimes—that being, who might have deprived us of all good, and forever left us to groan under inexpressible sufferings; when he shows favour and grants blessings, if we do not manifest some suitable returns of love and gratitude, we certainly render ourselves the most unworthy, and despicable of all creation. From the above considerations, we may reflect on what God has done for us; we may begin with our creation, and from thence trace some of the most distinguished marks of the divine benevolence down to the present time. This would be a most pleasing study—a most delightful field to explore. Upon the most careful examination of God's dealings with the human family, we shall find, that the moving cause of all the favours shown us, and blessings conferred on us, especially, the redemption of the world, through the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, is, pure self-interest-d benevolence. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Let us bear in mind the agency, and means which God employs to save men from the guilt and condemnation of actual transgression, and restore him to forfeited favour—as to efficient means, while the Holy Spirit acts as an agent, the truly pious, zealous, and holy minister of the Gospel appears the most prominent in the scale of means. Allow me Brethren to say, that no man, or minister, since the days of the apostles has been more efficient and successful in disseminating gospel light, and truth, than the founder of our *Methodism*. "Of him it may be confidently said, he was 'in labours more abundant'." He certainly was most to be regarded, in the labour of an *Evangelist*; "he made no provision for the flesh," but freely gave up all things for Christ and the Gospel's sake." The remembrance of his name, and of his labours of love, should be perpetuated to the latest generation. I am aware that the *Episcopal Methodists* in America were set off from that body of *Methodists* who in Mr. Wesley's day were connected with the Church in England, and with his consent established themselves in America as a Church, free, and independant of all other Churches in the world. Yet they retain the name and title of *Methodists*, and this being the hundredth year, or *centenary* of *methodism*, it is very proper that we should, in our humble sphere, imitate the *Western Methodist*, in England, and the *Episcopal Methodist*, in the United States, who have set apart the 25th of October next, for the purpose of celebrating the centenary of *Methodism*. After having reflected, with a thankful heart, on this very interesting and important subject, I take the liberty, dear brethren, to call the attention of both preachers and people, to a speedy and proper preparation for the celebration of the *centenary*. I am aware, that I have no direct confederal authority to make this call; I therefore make it as a request, to which I trust you will give your assent, as being both reasonable and judicious. As to the course to be pursued for the present, I can only say, that each Preacher should, without delay, provide himself with a subscription, and present the same to every individual, as far as may be practicable, within the sphere of his labour, and in the mean while collect all he can, and bring the same to the next conference; which is to meet the first Wednesday in September next, at Wesley's Chapel, Hollowell circuit,

All subscriptions should be made payable within a year; so that the amounts received, may be forth coming at our conference next year. Dear Brethren, let me remind you that "God loves the cheerful giver." You may ask what we want of any thing more than the amount of the preacher's salary, or what is called his quarterage money? I reply, we pay some conference Missionaries who are dependant upon your liberality for their salary, we have several widows, with their little children, whose husbands laboured and fell in the Gospel's cause,—these women, with their children, have a right according to the rules of our Church, to expect something by way of support from the conference. Not only so, some of our Preachers have been breaking up new ground, forming new Circuits, and others labouring on poor circuits, where they obtain but a very small allowance, and require, consequently, some pecuniary assistance.

It will be expected, that on the day of celebrating the centenary, every preacher, both traveling and local, as also, exhorters and Class-leaders, will hold meeting in every place where it is any way practicable, but as to the order of the day, and other particulars relating to the centenary, the whole will be submitted to the conference

I am Dear Brethren,

your very humble Serv't.

JOHN REYNOLDS.

Belleville, July 2nd, 1839.