

by which he was surrounded; and that an end would be brought about by a spirit such as he beheld. To that we refer to say, there is a small class of speakers who have a striking exception; when they are speaking, one could wish that all the worth and piety of the Church of England could be present to hear them. Such, beyond all others, were uniformly the speeches of Dr. Price. Others belonged to the same class, but these were the exceptions. The staple of the addresses at such meetings as we have attended has been the very opposite description; for the most part ministering little to a knowledge of the subject, and far less to the feeling so indispensable to be created and cultivated in order to its advancement—a feeling all-prevailing and all-pervading, arising from an awful sense of the tendency of the State-Church system to destroy the souls of men, to subvert the kingdom of Christ, and dishonor his name! The theme itself, too, is of a nature so temptingly to vanity, bulboomy, vulgarity, and bitterness, and so combined with the seductions supplied by an unwise and undevout audience, that few indeed have the power, spiritual and moral, to withstand it. There is no other species of popular assembly that, in our judgment, so much tends to render the spirit of what the Apostle Paul condemns in his letter to the Corinthians, as that of "debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults." The result is, that such meetings have too frequently been of a character very incongruous with the avowed object, such as it was painful afterwards to reflect upon—such as strongly tended to impress the mind of a Christian with the slightest bias to the Church-and-State system, that such meetings were not more Anti-State-Church than Anti-religious meetings. We do not caricature; we appeal to the experience of sober-minded and reflecting men, whether such meetings tended to deepen their impression for lost souls—to elevate their views of salvation—to fan the flame of love to the world's Redeemer—to send them away with an increased desire after conformity to his example, and solicitude for the spread of his kingdom? We appeal to all such men, whether the feeling generally excited has been such as they would deem desirable for the last night on earth? Such as would be deemed suitable to the Messiah's actual presence, were he now to revisit our globe? Such as, in their judgments, Paul would have looked on with complacency, and, by sharing its proceedings, have stamped with his Apostolic approbation? We anticipate with confidence the nature of the reply, and believe that it would be with emphatic unanimity to the effect of confirming the truth of our testimony.

The sum, then, of the whole is this:—The constitution of the Anti-State-Church Association is spiritually, religiously, and entirely wrong, and such as can never obtain the approval of the British Nonconformist Churches, or the blessing of God. It cannot long stand; it does not deserve to stand; and the sooner it comes to an end the better. If, which we wholly dispute,—organization should be proved to be necessary to the case in hand, it must be an organization of those that love Him whose glory is sought by a separation of Church and State. No matter what their views or preferences may be as to Gospel ordinances, or as to Ecclesiastical polity, provided there be among them perfect oneness as to his person and Godhead, grace and Spirit, blood and righteousness,—grant this and we ask no more.

The times we live in are full of peril to the doctrines of the Gospel, which renders it incalculably more important to guard against all attempts at morganing even in the slightest degree, considerations of Divine truth and of personal character. Surrender this point in organizations for the service of God as trivial, and all is lost! All the tendencies of the age, and all its perils, are in the direction of laxity. The disposition is too general to sacrifice truth to a false charity. We speak as to wise men; our readers will judge what we say; we say, judge, reflect, inquire, decide! Extempore, rash, random utterances we despise and condemn. There is a class whose spirit, principle, and conduct divest their views of all claim to respect, or even to notice. To them we do not speak. We ask for deep reflection, solemn investigation into the tendencies of the spirit of the times, and after this we call for judgment? If such men shall then feel constrained to declaim against the soundness of our views, so be it! The case must then be carried to a brighter tribunal. We shall appeal to the last authority in Creation.

Ecclesiastical.

Methodist New Connexion, England.

DEAR SIR:—In a recent communication which I have just received from England, are the following items, which I doubt not will be acceptable to many of your readers, inasmuch as they shew that the Methodist New Connexion in England is progressing, even in "troublesome times."—The extract is from a letter of the Rev. W. Cooke's dated April, 17, 1850. He writes "A spirit of loyalty, affection and peace prevails in all our Circuits. Great exertions are being made, and most successfully made, to reduce our chapel debts—this is almost marvellous in its result. Our congregations, almost everywhere, are greatly improved. Remarkable revivals have been experienced; and not less than two thousand have been added to our cause in the Dudley Circuit. Many other places are improving and increasing. Our friends are in good spirits and God is with us. I never knew the connexion in so good a state. Our large Magazine has increased about 500, and our small one about 9,000 in circulation since Christmas." The following extract may be of service to many.

"The agitation among the Wesleyans continues and spreads. The ruling party maintain—'No concessions,' and are expelling many of the leading agitators. The project of the Reformers is, I think, to agitate till Conference, and then if nothing be done for them to secede and make a proposal for the amalgamation of several branches of the Methodist family. Ourselves, the Association, and the New Seceders." Your early insertion of these extracts will greatly oblige,

Yours, &c. H. O. Crofts.

London, May 17, 1850.

To Correspondents.

Rev. H. O. C.—The Adv. was inadvertently removed, and we had not discovered the omission. With regard to the other enquiry our reply is, Yes. Communication of Rev. N. C. G., unaccountably detained. We find it difficult to insert lengthy articles at any time, but especially at present; our objections to that class of communications are well known.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS ON OUR LAST PAGE.—*Wanted a Situation:* a good opportunity of obtaining a first-rate Clerk or Accountant.

Removal:—J. Tipton: who since his heavy loss by the late fire, has opened his establishment two doors south of the Phoenix Foundry.

Grocery and Provision Store: J. Manning—good in quality and at low rates; a call will be advantageous to parties intending to purchase.

Grain and Fire Insurance: J. Manning, already favorably known in connection with the Insurance business.

Farm for Sale: a fair opportunity for a profitable investment.

Agents Wanted throughout Canada for Sears' New Pictorial Works for 1850: the increasing popularity of Sears' publications would doubtless render an agency remunerative.

The Watchman.

Monday Evening, May 20, 1850.

METHODISTIC REFORM.

We recently alluded to a periodical entitled *The Wesleyan Reformer and Zion's Herald*, published in Montreal; but have been unable until the present to devote a portion of our columns to the publication, and the subject of which it proposes to treat.

To Methodism, hundreds of thousands in both worlds are deeply indebted. To it, as a class of agency employed by the Divine Being for the elevation and regeneration of man, may be traced many of the important changes which the history of the Church has presented, during the past and present centuries. The Revival of evangelical doctrine and piety, which attended the labors of the Wesleys and their co-adjutors, though very extensively developed in the Methodist Societies, can never be fully estimated in its influence on mankind, until "the Books are opened," and the secrets of all hearts disclosed. Scarcely a section of the Christian Church but which shared in the advantages connected with the great Methodist revivals of the past century. It was emphatically the work of God; and however opposed to the movement the adherents of other sections of the Church might be, the unearthly influence exerted on all classes who heard the truth from the lips of these men of God, could not fail to overawe the minds of the mass, whether favorable or indignant respecting the new innovation.

Methodism was in advance of the age that gave it birth; and its elastic onward character was calculated to exert a powerful influence on the minds of mankind. Like the unexpected comet's blaze, it took the nations by surprise; and never since the days of the Apostles did such a powerful awakening to the importance of the salvation of lost sinners take place. But as we have stated, Methodism at its commencement was in advance of the age; so, we are fully convinced that it could not retain that ascendancy over the human mind which distinguished its primitive career, without the embodiment of the principles of progress in every department of its constitution. Commencing in advance of the age, it can maintain its primitive character and efficiency in no other way, but by a progress equal to that of the several ages in which it exists. The moment its progress ceases, or its movement becomes less exursive: in time, the moment it ceases to lead the age, Methodism becomes destitute of its great original and distinguished characteristics—it ceases to be Primitive Methodism. That such a degeneracy has taken place, is contended by many. Indeed, ere the venerable Wesley was "gathered unto his fathers," grave apprehensions, founded on ill-founded assumptions, prevailed among the discerning, though warm adherents of that eminent servant of God. It was questioned in that day whether the system, its polity and operations, had maintained a position in advance of the age; and doubts were entertained as to the possibility of carrying out the rules of the system without serious detriment to the spirituality of the community, and the interests of religion generally. The press from without rendered modification indispensable; and to some extent after many a painful struggle against so-called innovation, the Conference was compelled to yield to the wishes of the membership. But amid the several concessions made by the Wesleyan Conferences, it is undeniable that many, both in the old and new world who are imbued with an undying attachment to Methodism, believe that material alterations are necessary to render the sys-

tem what the present age requires. This, alone, was calculated to induce individuals in the ranks of Methodism to hit up a standard as reformers of the polity and usages of Methodism. It cannot, however, fail to attract the attention of the observant mind that in the late and present movements in the Wesleyan Community, multitudes are demanding Methodism "as it was," in its origin. And it is unquestionable that original Methodism possessed claims to which its constituted and operating at present, it can allege no reasonable claim. But which, we would not conceal the fact that in our opinion, the demand for the system as it was originally, is neither wise nor intelligent. Our conviction is, that at the commencement and in every stage of its progress the Wesleyan polity was defective; yet we conceive that its present constitution is less defective in its adaptation to the present age than would be the original constitution of Methodism. Not a doubt can obtain of the accumulation of abuses in modern times; these, however, let it be observed, may be legitimately traced to the system as originally instituted, and are by no means peculiar to the modern state of the system. Like most constitutions wherein injurious elements are embodied, the pernicious effects were not at first discernible; but required time to develop their real character and tendency. And now, after the lapse of more than a century, the demand for reform is urged in Britain in the most telling manner, by tens of thousands, to whom Methodism can scarcely ever cease to be dear.

The Reform movement at home, has called into existence several publications, the object of which is to correct abuses and reform the polity of the Wesleyan community. These instrumentalities have proved themselves formidable in the work of reform. We would not vouch for the propriety of every thing written by the managers of these Journals; but we have no hesitation in avowing our conviction that they entertain correct views as to the means, we may say the only means of effecting the object at which they aim. Instead of dealing in vague generalities, they have assailed what they conceived to be the seat of the troubles which afflict Methodism; and with the aid of facts and figures, have made out a case so tangible and telling that tens of thousands have rallied round their standard. In some cotemporary Journals the attempt has been made to persuade the public that the movement at home is losing its hold on the public mind. This, however, is not the case, if British Journals be reliable authorities.

So far as we can judge the "Wesleyan Reformer," published in Montreal, has for its object the promotion of reforms in the Wesleyan church in Canada, similar to those sought by the reformers at home. This Journal, in common with the *Wesleyan Times*, &c., &c. at home, advocates the necessity of diminishing the power of the ministry and introducing the system of lay representation already adopted by several other Methodist Communities; and sundry other minor reforms, all of which, if carried into effect, would in our opinion promote the stability and prosperity of the community. But we are strangely mistaken, if the Editor of the "Wesleyan Reformer" has fully counted the cost and estimated the difficulty of the undertaking in which he has engaged. To this conclusion we are led by the character of the publication, which we consider decidedly "behind the age," deficient in facts and force, and little calculated to awaken apprehension in the minds of those who wish to protract the existence of "Wesleyanism as it is." If our new cotemporary intends to shake the empire of "priestly intolerance," he must arm himself with more formidable weapons, and adapt his aggressive movement to the meridian of Canada. True we have seen but the first number of the paper; for although our cotemporary has copied freely from our sheet without giving credit, he by some means omitted sending an exchange. Subsequent numbers may be more to the point; but certainly without great advances the thing must prove abortive. If our cotemporary desires real, needed reform, and wishes to obtain the countenance of the Wesleyans of Canada, he must commence at the beginning and not at the middle or end of his task. Instead of publishing a small sheet, in large type, on poor paper, at a high rate, and filled principally with selections adapted to a meridian four thousand miles from Canada,—he must present to the public a Journal, the very appearance of which will indicate progress. It does not afford us pleasure to avow a low estimate of a cotemporary's efforts; but we conceive it a duty to deal plainly in a case so important.

In conclusion we have no doubt a movement will ere long take place in the ranks of the Wesleyan Community in Canada. Already, if we are not mistaken, the omens are apparent; and if the *Wesleyan Reformer* would promote the interests of Methodism, of christianity, he must not overlook the excellencies, in attempting to correct the abuses of a religious community; he must adapt his onset to the parties from whom he expects countenance, as well as to the end he has in view.

We this day conclude the article from the *Westminster Review*, on "Epidemics;" and earnestly hope that its length has not in the estimation of our readers, outweighed its importance.

We direct special attention to a communication from the General Superintendent, the importance of which has induced us to exclude other matter to secure its insertion. A short time ago our cotemporary of the *Guardian* inserted an article in which it was stated the Methodist New Connexion in England, was on the decline. Will our cotemporary have the kindness to correct this mistake?

We have received a copy of the "Municipal Manual for Upper Canada," for 1850, with a Map of the Province, &c., &c., Toronto, SCOTT & Balfour. This valuable compendium is another instance of the enterprising spirit of the publishers; and on account of its suitability as a book of reference for the members of Municipal Corporations, will doubtless secure a ready sale.

REVIEW OF NEWS.

Intelligence per the *Hibernia* has caused considerable stir in the markets. Wheat and flour have advanced. This will be hailed with great satisfaction by many of our readers. The value of Canadian securities in the British money market is considerably advanced.

In Canada, the opening and progress of the legislature has been the absorbing topic since our last issue. The opening was rather an interesting affair to parties who had not previously witnessed a similar event. The Chamber of the Legislative Council was densely crowded. Comment on His Excellency's Speech, is unnecessary: the document will be found in our columns. We have given as full an account of Parliamentary proceedings as our space would admit of. Little that deserves attention in our review, has transpired. It is now certain that a measure for the settlement of the Clergy Reserves and Rectories questions, will be laid before Parliament, but not as a Cabinet Measure. We are pleased to observe that the step initiatory has been taken on the Sabbath question: Kingston has taken a noble stand on the subject. Query, when will our *Queen City* do likewise?

This City has been visited by an extensive conflagration; the particulars of which will be found in our columns.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Revs. H. O. Crofts, W. Bothwell, N. C. Gowan, F. Haynes.

REMITTANCES.—To end of Vol.—Messrs. W. Bates, M. C. Schofield.

For 6 months.—Mr J. E. Pell.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.—Revs. W. Bothwell, 1; N. C. Gowan, 1; J. G. Haskett, Esq., 3.

General Intelligence.



ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER HIBERNIA.

New York, May 16.

The *Hibernia* arrived to-day. Cotton has advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Corn is in good demand at about 6d. advance. Flour is advanced 1s. and is firm. Coffee is dull at Liverpool, and 2s. lower in London. Ashes are in fair demand, 28s. a 30s. for pearls and pots. Provisions—full average business. Beef has advanced 1s. 1 2s. per ton for tierces. Pork, no change, but new Western less firm. Hams in good demand at previous rates. Bacon steady, sales 40 tons. Lard 3d lower.

Eugene Sue received the vote of full one-half of the army in Paris, and beat his opponent by 8,000 votes. The election passed off quietly.

The *Europa* arrived at Liverpool on Monday. The Queen was safely delivered of a Prince on the 1st of May.

The proceedings in Parliament presented but little interest.

The Greek difficulty is still unsettled. Business in the manufacturing districts continues favorable.

The money market is unchanged. Consols closing 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ a 95 $\frac{1}{2}$; American Securities are in good demand Government Sixes of 68 110 $\frac{1}{4}$ a 111; New York Fives 98; Ohio Sixes 101 a 102. No change in other stocks. There is but little change in the state of trade at Canton.

The election, Eugene Sue has had the effect to paralyze the minds of the conservatives; and it is thought that if the army could be depended upon, Louis Napoleon would attempt a coup d'etat to put down the socialists, and restrict the suffrage. M. Bonaparte, cousin to the President supported Eugene Sue.

The dispute between Denmark and the Duchies remained unsettled. The First session of the Urftut parliament is about to close. The Jesuits have been publicly and officially expelled to Austria. A revolution is said to have broken out in Iceland and the government expelled; the cause is stated to be a commercial monopoly, in favor of Copenhagen, prejudicial to the Islanders; a force has been sent to subdue the insurgents. The Roman question seems to be about to be involved in the maze of diplomacy,—Prussia having asserted her right to be a party to its adjustment. England backs Prussia in this view, so that Austria and France are not likely to make such cheap merchandise of the Roman people. The Austrian Council of state resolved to postpone the raising