

SKETCH OF A WESLEYAN MINISTER.

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No. 2.

In the year 1826, there befel the Wesleyan Missionary Society the most painful calamity that has hitherto befallen that, or any other Missionary Society of modern times. We allude to the wreck of a vessel called the *Maria*, employed as a mail packet in the West Indies; on board of which five Missionaries and some of their wives and children had embarked on their return from their annual District meeting, to their respective stations on those Islands.

To supply the vacancies thus so suddenly rendered, volunteers for Missionary service were sought and obtained in England, among whom was the Rev. Enoch Wood, then a youthful accepted candidate for the Missionary work,—a transient member of the family of the Rev. George Morley, senior Secretary,—whose first designation was Ceylon, but upon this sad visitation, when it was difficult, so hastily, to fill up the required number to supply this melancholy deficiency,—promptly offered his services, and the Islands of Antigua and Montserrat became the first field of his Missionary labour. After a stay of more than three years in the West Indies, from failing health, he was removed to the Province of New Brunswick, where he filled some of its most important stations, such as Fredricton, the capital of that Province, and St. John's, its principal maritime city. In the former he remained four years, and in the latter, with a short interval of two years, the protracted term of twelve years. We have it on the authority of those who were in a position of knowing, that his popularity as a Preacher was unprecedented, and his usefulness not often equalled. In the year 1847, he accompanied the Rev. R. Alder, D.D., by earnest request of the latter, to this Province, and was present at the consummation of the Union between the English and Canadian Conferences. In this country he has continued to reside, to the present, filling the highest and most responsible offices in our connexion. He has been Superintendent of Missions thirteen years, and President of Conference seven years, being a longer period than any one man ever held in this exalted position, in any Wesleyan Conference, save Dr. Coke, in the Irish Conference; and as Superintendent of Missions, his tenure of office has been without precedent, if we make the same exception.

When we see a Minister, for so many years occupying such exalted and responsible places in the Wesleyan Church, where changes form so prominent a part in its usages, and among those who are perfectly independent