

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, December 7, 1850.

REMEDY FOR THE WORLD'S EVILS.

The world is full of evils existing in various forms. The great question is,—*How may they be the most effectually eradicated?*—Our answer, in brief, is, by the universal diffusion of Divine Truth, and the universal reception of the saving blessings proposed for the world's acceptance in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This remedy applies itself in the most direct manner, without tortuosity, to the heart and moral principles, the source whence moral evils and many of those of a physical nature proceed. When sincerely embraced and personally experienced, such is its potency, according to divine adaptation and appointment, that it produces a wondrous transformation in the whole character, internal as well as external, of its recipients, and destroys their active and latent propensities to vicious practices and indulgences, and elevates them to a high and ennobling position in the moral universe. It thus lays the axe at the root—and, by the destruction of that, seeks to effect a reformation at once complete and permanent.—The Christian world is powerfully called upon at the present day to work the instrumentality, graciously provided as a sovereign *panacea*, with all the intensity of a quenchless zeal, with all the confidence which the authority and promise of a faithful God can inspire, and with all the sympathising feeling which the abounding evils of a world "lying in the wicked one" should incite. They should not forget, that, on the progress and reception of saving truth, or of the Gospel of Christ, the world's deliverance from present existing and abounding vices, as well as its future glory and happiness, depends; and therefore, by a motive so powerful and so urgent, they are required to work while it is day—to labour with all their heart, mind, strength, influence, and with whatever other instrument may be at their disposal, to bring their fellow-men beneath the power of divine truth and grace.

Nor should subordinate means of reform be overlooked or neglected. Whilst conceding to divine means the principal place in the vast machinery of good, as men of reason and common prudence, they will avail themselves of all agencies which they see and know to be promotive of the morality and happiness of men. We hold the principle to be sound, that Christian men may and should make use of those associations whose sole and simple object is to aid the erring to escape from demoralizing habits, with the hope, that such reformation may, under the blessing of God, prove the precursor of higher, even spiritual benefits. Because such reformatory processes do not professedly aim at accomplishing all the good that is desirable and of which men are capable, we deem them not on that account as worthy of condemnation or neglect; but, in their own order and position,—as means to attain an end, for the realization of which every good man must earnestly wish and ardently pray,—we regard them as deserving of approval and support. If the higher means require to be worked heartily, zealously, and perseveringly, not less heartily, zealously, and perseveringly, with due regard to their relative importance, should the subordinate ones be employed. In a word, we are advocates for Christian persons doing all the good of which they are capable both to the bodies and souls of their fellow-men, and that promptly and energetically; in each and all means relying on the divine blessing and aiming at the divine glory, and striving to imbue the whole with the master-principle of earnest piety.

ENGLISH METHODISM.

Late numbers of *The (London) Watchman* are rich with the intelligence of Methodist operations in the Home Work, and of the liberality of our people in the support and extension of the cause of God in these troublous times. Never were we more deeply convinced, than by reading the accounts to which we have referred, of the truth uttered by the late Dr. CHALMERS, when in speaking of "Methodism," he described it significantly as "CHRISTIANITY IN EARNEST." In vain will disappointed men oppose English Methodism, whilst it continues to be animated by the spirit of piety, zeal, and devotion to the cause of Christ and humanity, by which it has been in times past, and is at the present day eminently characterized. All manner of evils has been spoken, published and circulated against "Methodism as

it is." Some have done this wickedly, others ignorantly, and others again through jealousy or some other unworthy motive—but if Methodism maintains its present right position relative to the Head of the Church and the grace of the Spirit, and perseveres zealously and laboriously to prosecute its one great and avowed object, of spreading scriptural holiness through the length and breadth of the land, then God, whom it honours and serves, will convey it safely and triumphantly through all the storms of opposition which the art, and cunning, and duplicity, and malice of men may manage or be permitted to raise. Through grace there are vitality, power, and influence, springing from uncorrupt doctrine, godly discipline, holy principles, and presence of the Divine Spirit, in "Methodism as it is."—These cannot be perverted, relaxed, abandoned, or grieved away, by any mere time-serving and crooked policy. Uprightness, fidelity, firmness, singleness of aim, and holiness of living, become the *House of the Lord* forever; and as long as there is a simple honouring of God in an uncompromising adherence to these essential and vital principles, there will be to our beloved Zion, and "upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

WESLEYAN INTELLIGENCE.

Having adverted in another place to the cheering and interesting character of the Methodist intelligence from the mother country, we give below an extract or two from *The Watchman* of Novr. 13th, which will be read, we doubt not, with interest by our friends on this side of the water. We regret our space will not permit us to make more numerous selections, but those presented will show that our people are, as they are wont to be, actively engaged in the varied departments of Christian effort:—

OLDHAM.—Our friends in this town have felt, for a series of years, the desirableness of a better and more commodious place of worship. An enlargement has frequently been proposed; but difficulties as frequently presented themselves, which could not, till recently, be overcome. Our excellent friends, the ladies of the Society and congregation, at length took the initiative, by preparing extensively for a Bazaar, which was held in the spring of the last year; the proceeds of which, amounting to the munificent sum of £138, formed the commencement of a fund for accomplishing the much-desiderated object. A new set of Trustees having been duly appointed in the early part of the present year, a social meeting was held in the Town Hall; and F. Parnell, Esq., of Manchester, was called to the chair. Eloquent addresses were delivered by the Rev. Drs. Newton and Hannah, and Jonathan Crowther, together with our late Ministers, the Rev. R. Heyes and Joseph Moorhouse, and the Chairman. A subscription was forthwith commenced in the most spirited manner; and in the course of a short time, £1,020 were promised in furtherance of the good cause. An excellent plan for the enlargement, which was drawn up by Mr. Simpson, of Leeds, was cordially approved and adopted by the Trustees. His services were engaged as architect; and under his able superintendence, our contracted place of worship has been transformed into a large and beautiful sanctuary, calculated to seat 1,300 persons; provided with an excellent apparatus to secure an equable temperature at all seasons of the year; and furnished with a very superior and excellent toned organ, built expressly for the purpose by Mr. Jackson, of Bolton. The opening services were commenced by the Rev. Robert Newton, D. D., on Friday the 25th ultimo, when a respectable and numerous congregation assembled, to unite with him in dedicating the enlarged house to the service of the ever blessed Trinity. A dinner was provided between the services, of which the Trustees and a large party partook. The Rev. Doctor ministered, to delightful congregations, two richly evangelical discourses, in his own peculiarly happy and effective style. The collections for the day amounted to £63 11s. 7d.—On the following Sabbath morning, the services were continued by the Rev. Dr. Bunting, who commenced his ministerial career in this Circuit fifty-one years since, and whose ministry, though not exercised here during the intervals, has been cherished in the recollection of families of our people, from that time to the present period.—Whilst scores were unable to procure standing room, a densely crowded congregation hailed his re-appearance amongst us, and listened with intense interest and pleasure, for an hour and a half, to one of the richest and most lucid expositions of Scripture, that they had ever been permitted to hear. The collection at the close of this service amounted to the noble sum of £102 0s. 5d. In the evening, the Rev. W. Bird, of Bradford, who grew increasingly in the affec-

tions of his charge during his three years' station in this Circuit, delivered a characteristically argumentative discourse to a dense congregation, who responded to his appeal at the close, by a collection amounting to £42 8s. 10d. The concluding services were conducted in the morning of Sunday, the 3rd instant, by the Rev. Dr. Hannah; and in the evening of that and the following day, by the Rev. W. Fox. After the morning sermon, which was characterised by beautiful arrangement, holy unction and extensive biblical research, a collection was made, amounting to £14 8s. 10d. And at the close of the two following services, the gleanings were gathered, to the amount of £47 18s. 1d. The whole of the above services have been seasons of great spiritual profit and joy to many; and their united pecuniary product has realised to the Trust Funds the handsome amount of £300 7s. 10d. The trustees are gratified in being able, through the kindness and liberality of the Christian public, to complete an extensive enlargement of the Chapel, and the erection of a new building, containing a large room for week evening services, and three spacious class-rooms, with but a trifling addition to the Trust Debt; and from the circumstances of the pious, with one or two exceptions, being all let, they are cheered by the assurance, "that their labour will not be in vain in the Lord."

ABERGAVENNY.—On Sunday, October 27th, the Rev. Dr. Alder favoured us with a visit on behalf of our Missions. The Rev. Doctor preached twice in Abergavenny, and delighted the congregations by his able and eloquent discourses. On the Monday following, the annual Missionary meeting was held. John Thomas, Esq., (who is a member of the Established Church,) ably presided. This gentleman, in the course of his seasonable observations, said "he had carefully weighed over the facts and the conduct of the Conference in reference to the late expulsions, he had vindicated them through the press, and was still more and more satisfied that the Conference could not have acted otherwise than it did." The Rev. Thomas Rogers read the report, which was of a very cheering description, showing, in the midst of great depression of trade, considerable increase on the Missionary receipts for the year. At the close, he read a letter which had been sent by a friend, expressing confidence in the executive of the parent Society, and promising £5 for himself and £5 for his lady this year. The substance of this letter appeared in the *Watchman* for the 30th of October, and is well worthy of perusal. The reading of this document produced great sensation. The Rev. Hugh Carter moved, and Mr. William Vaughan seconded, the first resolution. Dr. Alder then gave a comprehensive and luminous statement of the operations and successes of the Missionary Society throughout the world, most delightfully dwelling on the diffusion of Christianity from Western Africa into the interior of that unexplored continent, of its progress in the South Seas, and especially in Feejee, from the most recent official documents received from those stations. The collection was made at the close of the Doctor's powerful address, and was the largest for Missionary purposes ever realized in Abergavenny.

LEEDS.—The Wesleyan Sunday School Teachers of this town have found it mutually instructive, edifying, and encouraging, to meet annually and confer together on the great work in which they are engaged. The third annual reunion of all the Teachers in the Four Leeds Circuits took place at Brunswick Rooms, on Friday evening last, the 8th inst. (being Leeds Fair Day,) at five o'clock, the Rev. Edward Walker, Superintendent of the Leeds Second Circuit, in the chair. About 600 sat down to tea. The engagements of the evening commenced with singing, and prayer was offered by the Rev. W. H. Clarkson. After an introductory address by the Chairman, the statistics of all the schools in the four Leeds Circuits were read by Mr. James Oates, the Secretary. The account is very minute in its detail of the state of each school, the aggregate of which is as follows:—There are 5,923 children under instruction. Number in select classes, 273. Attending week-day instruction, 406. Members of Society, 226. Fourteen years of age and upwards, 1,249. There are 1,120 teachers, 753 of whom are members of Society, and 642 have been taught in the schools. The libraries attached to the several schools contain 8,040 books, with an average weekly circulation of 1,102 volumes.

DUBLIN NORTH.—The half-yearly Missionary tea meeting was held in the Abbey-street School-room, on Tuesday, the 29th ult., the Rev. Dr. Appelbe in the chair. The sums obtained from the several branch associations having been announced by the Secretaries, interesting and affective addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. D. McAfee, S. Young, J. W. McKay, J. Hutchinson, and Messrs. Cronhelm and McComas. A cheering sense of the divine presence pervaded the meeting, and the impression made by the several speeches was evidently deep and salutary; several new collectors having offered themselves at the close and since the meeting.—On comparison it was found that the income exceeded that of the corresponding half-year previous by £9. These facts, together with the undiminished interest in the cause manifested at the half-yearly meeting of the South circuit last

evening, and the very satisfactory accounts received by the General Superintendent from all parts of the kingdom, warrant the conclusion, that the Missionary heart of the Wesleyan body of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia, whose "deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."

Price Paid in Search of Gold.

Of the sufferings of many,—who have left their homes on the adventurous undertaking of seeking gold in California,—on their way to that region, the accounts are most distressing. Thousands, during the past year, who never reached the land of their hopes, but perished on the way, have endured all the horrors first of starvation, and then the lingering pains consequent on such a state, until death terminated their mortal existence. How strong must have been the desire for yellow dust which impelled them to brave so many perils! And how dear, to them, has been the price they have paid for the prospect of acquiring wealth! Even the more fortunate, of gold-seekers have not escaped altogether unscathed. In some instances, their accumulations have been obtained only by the endurance of untold privations and distress. We should think the well authenticated statements of the calamities which have befallen others, would in some degree dampen the ardour of those, who are contemplating a transit to the far-off land of precious ore. We do not wish to speak in tones of unnecessary discouragement, but we are of opinion, that, if persons, especially married ones, are doing at all well, or making a comfortable subsistence at home among their relatives and friends, they would consult both their ease and comfort by being satisfied with their present condition, and by toiling on, if need be, in the land in which Providence has assigned their lot. It is a difficult lesson to learn, but it is an important and truthful one, that, "godliness with contentment is great gain."

Handsomely Rewarded.

A gold, and we suppose a valuable, ring having been lost recently by a resident of this city, the Town-crier was employed to notify the loss and announce that the person who should find it and restore it to the owner would be *handsomely* rewarded. A lad, the son of a poor but worthy man, was fortunate enough to find the ring, and, with heart elate, anticipating the reception of the promised reward, hid himself off to the residence of the owner. He politely knocked at the door—a maid came—the boy gave her the ring—she took it to her mistress and shortly afterwards returned to the eager expectant—and lo! a cold "Thank You—Mistress is very much obliged to you"—was all the reward the poor lad received! He will after this the better understand what the phrase "handsomely (handsome?) rewarded" means. To say the least, such conduct was mean beyond description, and not at all calculated to encourage honesty in those who may be tempted to keep what they find; though we hope the boy in question will be satisfied by the reflection, that, by returning the valuable article found, he did nothing but his duty, and has thereby preserved a clear conscience, which is far better than gold or silver.

The *Recorder* says, he has been informed that some Steel, from the Londonderry Iron Works, was lately taken to England, where it has been pronounced, by the best judges, to be superior to any article of the kind that was ever seen in London. Upon a trial at the Mint, it was found that dies made of the Londonderry Steel would stand wear at least four times better than those of any other steel; and by its application to the purposes of that institution, the Government might effect a saving of £6,000 sterling a-year in the public expenditure.

Letters have been received, says the *Eastern Chronicle*, from the Rev. John Goddard, Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at Annapolis, of date 9th April. His family, and the other members of the missionary band, with the exception of himself, were in the enjoyment of their usual health. He had been seriously indisposed, but was recovering when he wrote.

We acknowledge, with thanks to the Reverend Secretary, a copy of the Missionary Report of the New Brunswick District for the year ending May, 1850.

We acknowledge the receipt of a Session Ticket from the Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute, for which he and the Committee will please accept our thanks.

We acknowledge the receipt of a copy of *The New Scotia Family Almanack and Register for 1851*, published by Messrs. FINEST & BLACKADAR, and, from a personal examination of its varied and interesting contents, we can fully in the favourable opinion expressed by our contemporaries, to which we referred in our last number.