tered to certain descriptions of the Press in the United States, on the very subject referred to previously by us But though we stated expressly at the time that our prefatory observations were of "*general* application," the *Christian Visitor*, by a singular ingenuity, has distorted them from their legitimate and intended meaning to a designed crimination of himself. We noticed his *selection* as only *one* in stance of the general class of open or covert attacks made by an unfriendly Press, of which Wesleyans throughout the world have had just cause to complain. We readily admit that the Provincial Press generally has taken no very active part in the recent agitations of our Church in the father-land: but our complaint touched this point only, that the references, with very rare exceptions, were only *one side* of the controversy, and that the one hostile to Wesleyanism, betraying an unmistakeable bias, by no means calculated to promote christian union. Even allowing that Methodism has defects, it must be conceded, that it has its excellencies, but, in times of agitation, where the alleged defects are made the sole objects of exposure, we can regard such a course as dictated only by a spirit of hostility.

The *Christian Visitor* now assumes the open character of impugner. While [illegible] himself for the manifestation of past indulgence, he fails not to state, in no courteous terms, following in the track of other assailants, that *we* "well know," that, if he had possessed the disposition, he might have submitted to his readers "a *great amount* of matter to the *discredit* of *our people*." We well know he might have reproduced in abundance the calumnies and misrepresentations of an unscrupulous press: but we also well know, that, so far from doing real "discredit to *our* people," the act would have principally done *discredit* to *himself*.

Nor does he now hesitate to state it as his *firm belief* that the "*real foes*" of the peace and progress of Methodism are those *within* the Conference. We return his compliment, and think, that in thus speaking, he has not only been "naughty," but more — he has been naughty *very*; and we can regard this instance of gratuitous crimination of our respected fathers and brethren in no other light than one, like scores of others, in which the Conference has been unjustly and cruelly judged and condemned, even though the charge should be accompanied with expressions of regret dipped in honey itself.— This charitable representation of our *christian* brother may produce an effect on some minds, but it will exercise little influence on the candid and enlightened.

The Conference has other employment, befitting its high and solemn trust, than to revolutionize the entire constitutional system of Wesleyan Methodism at the arbitrary dictation of a small disaffected minority even of its own members, or at that of the members of *other* Churches who are avowedly, and in some instances, violently opposed to the Connexional policy. We assure our kind friend, that "the pressing demand for reform," to which he so feelingly refers, is altogether magnified or over-rated, as the Memorial and other documents presented to the late Conference conclusively show: though it is the sinister policy of the opponents of constitutional Methodism, and their abettors, to continue to fill the land with their noise. The vast majority of Wesleyan Methodists are sound at heart, and satisfied with Methodism as it is, and have the utmost confidence in the piety and christian integrity of the Conference. Nor are the energies of Methodism, as an instrument in the hands of God of doing good, at this moment, at all impaired. God is smiling approvingly on the efforts of our Church at home and abroad; and even during the last eventful year, though confronted and attacked on every hand by hostile bands, thousands were converted to God through her means, thus demonstrating to all except the determinedly captious and the wilfully blind, that God is with her of a truth. So far from agreeing with the *Christian Visitor* in opinion, that Mr. Wesley, were he now alive, would be the first to concede to the present pressing demand for reform," we believe, judging what Mr. Wesley *would now do* from what when alive he *did do*, that he would rather say to Methodism—*perish!*"—than yield to the clamours of men who had been guilty of the meanness and the sin of secretly slandering their brethren whilst retaining their ministerial status, and who, since their righteous expulsion, in vindictive retaliation, have shown themselves so reckless in their measures, so bitter in their spirit, so violent in their opposition, and so devoid of the graces which should adorn the christian and ministerial character.

Opening of the Mechanics' Institute.

The Lecture Session of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute was commenced on Wednesday evening last, by an opening Lecture delivered by the Rev. E. Evans. The subject chosen by the Lecturer — "*The Individual and Social Advantages of Knowledge*" — was well adapted to the occasion, and to stimulate the members, especially the youthful members, to renewed exertion in the praiseworthy career of mental improvement. Though composed, as we were informed, under disadvantageous circumstances, the lecture was written in a chaste and classic style, and was replete with sound sense, apposite illustrations, convincing arguments, and happy allusions. We are not however designing to write a panegyric on the Essay of the Lecturer, but [illegible] respectfully to speak of it as [illegible] by those who had the pleasure of listening to its oral delivery, and [illegible] it as affording [illegible] the [illegible] Session of the Institute.

On Wednesday evening next (Nov. [illegible]) Rev. A. Forrester is to lecture on [illegible] *Hook*, Esq. of Nova Scotia.

Physiological Curiosity.

At the Mechanics' Lecture on Wednesday evening last was exhibited by the [illegible] Dr Paxson, a physiological curiosity in the shape of two animals [illegible] from the salt mines in the province of Kanawha, Virginia. They were [illegible] and *living specimens*. The President [illegible] first one was a lobster, or something very much like a lobster, and [illegible] that the want of colour was owing to [illegible] excluded from light, and the peculiarity of its eyes, was an instance of wise adaptation to the circumstances of the inhabitant of the dark water [illegible] where no light could penetrate, [illegible] *need of eyes*: but he had no doubt, that were these animals submitted to a microscopic examination, it would be found, that the deficiency of vision had been amply compensated for by a peculiar nervous organization, by the extreme sensitiveness of which, they could in the profound darkness in which their way and prey lay, [illegible] against [illegible]. They were presented to the [illegible] by a gentleman of this City who had [illegible] from a visit to the Mammoth Cave. We should have stated that they are [illegible] in alcohol, and in this state they will be placed in the Museum of the Institute [illegible] to gratify the curiosity of [illegible]. The section of tube, since their [illegible] the upper world, though in a [illegible] state, [illegible] in the [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the