

REPORT, ETC.

THE recurrence of such an Annual Festival, as the one we are now celebrating, suggests topics upon which gratitude, benevolence, and love, may expatiate freely, and in accordance with their own principles and feelings. This being the case, there cannot be any dearth of matter, or any scarcity of detail—no lack of motives, nor want of the *material* from which conclusions, arguments, and appeals are usually derived. The Statue of MEMNON, say the Heathen Mythologists, emitted sounds of music, as soon as the rays of the sun fell upon it; and from the image of SAINT JANUARIUS, it is affirmed, blood issued on his anniversary, or “FEAST DAY.” One of these is a Grecian Apologue—the other is a Romish Legend. The first is admired as a beautiful conception, and a classical mode of illustration; and the second is regarded, by certain lovers of the marvellous, as a notable interposition of God. But *your* Committee, in presenting their twenty fourth Annual Report, speak of that which was from the beginning, which they have heard, which they have seen with their eyes, which they have looked upon; and their hands have handled of the word of life.

At the close of another year, and when they are called upon to resign the trust you so generously confided to them—they hear a voice, coming from “THE WAY OF THE EAST”—a voice as if Moses himself, spake to them from “The top of Pisgash,” and said, “Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy Father, and he will shew thee; thy Elders, and they will tell thee.” DEUT. 32—7.

The very principle in which WESLEYAN METHODISM originated, was in its nature and character, essentially Missionary; and the aspect under which this principle appeared, and the manner in which it operated, impressed upon it a strong resemblance to the apostolic institution. The Ministry originated the membership, and by the blessing of God made them “*to be a people who were not a people.*” The first Methodist Preachers were specially called of God; and were “SENT FORTH” by him, “to turn men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” Like the sons of Zebedee, they left all, and followed Christ—they had “neither purse, nor shoes, nor scrip”—they had nothing, and yet they possessed all things