

ment who will protest against the injustice. LET EVERY CANDIDATE, THEREFORE, AT THE APPROACHING ELECTION, BE PLEDGED TO SUPPORT A BILL TO SECURE A PERFECT EQUALITY OF THE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

British Wesleyan Methodism,

Declining in Power—Important evidence of the fact—Causes of its Decay.

"THE LOVE OF RICHES—THE LOVE OF HONOUR—THE LOVE OF POWER,"

A Methodist writer in a late English publication states the important fact that only 690 members were added to the Connexion, in England, during the year 1846, and endeavours to analyse the causes which led to such a remarkable falling off. The mechanism of the British Wesleyan Body in England then exhibited 1000 regular Ministers and Preachers on trial; 171 supernumerary Preachers: about 15,000 local Preachers; 30,000 Leaders, Stewards, and Trustees: nearly 350,000 members; perhaps, upon an average, about 2,000,000 hearers; Chapel property valued at £3,000,000 Sterling; an annual revenue of about £1,000,000 Sterling; nearly 400 day Schools; Sunday Schools embracing 500,000 scholars; besides preparatory and other Schools, and the two Theological Institutions, at Richmond and Didsbury, embracing 75 Students. With all this vast moral machinery why were only 690 Converts to Methodism made in 1846?

In examining the Annual Minutes of Conference, he found that the conversions or additions to the Body, in proportion to the number of the Ministers employed, have been long and steadily on the decrease. Thus for the three decades, (or periods of 10 years,) from 1786 to 1816 the annual increase in Great Britain and Ireland was at the rate of 14 members to every travelling preacher in full work: that of the last three, namely, from 1816 to 1846, it has been only about 5 members to each preacher: while in the last year of the last decade, namely, 1846, the increase has been little more than one convert to every four of the working Ministers!!!

After a formidable array of facts similar to these, and referring to the evils of "mixed fellowship" created through the human device of receiving vast numbers of ungodly persons, as it is termed "ON TRIAL" he concludes that the cause of the decline is less to be traced to the individuals forming the agency, than to THE SYSTEM ITSELF. He refers then to the following particulars, as evidence that with the progress of intelligence such a system must be abandoned by its adherents, or be changed:—

1st. That the people are under an irresponsible Ecclesiastical Synod, with almost unlimited powers over the whole ramifications of the Connexion; that its members legislating alone, reporting their own proceedings, and preventing, authoritatively all meetings of members for enquiry into their official transactions or conduct, form a despotism no less foreign to the spirit of Christianity than to the progressive spirit of civilized Society. The following PAPAL ACT OF CONFERENCE demonstrates this fact—viz.

"Let no man, or number of men, in our Connexion, on any account or occasion, circulate letters, call meetings, do, or attempt to do any thing new till it has been first appointed by the Conference!" (A more monstrous injunction never issued from the Vatican.)

2nd. The MONEY from the Chapel shillings at any other families!!!

3rd. That set up by the than Jesus Christ and Method

4th. That secularities—namely, education—or membership charity. The multitudes of in the Conn

5th. That ministerial question any as "disaffected" God's Word remove from

6th. That predilections and there is PLE"—a tru

7th. And avoid for

THIS is the calm a human system a good pu the world Testament just as the la to man thro congregation of the Great elected officer must die a simple but n external con on earth, an heaven"

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