

attend to them with your wonted benevolence and zeal!

But while we owe a debt of affectionate regard to our own country, we are likewise debtors to the whole family of man. Who ever needs our help in our neighbour, and we are commanded to love our neighbour as ourselves. We have, therefore, now to direct your most serious attention to those fields of labour in which our Missionaries are actively employed. We rejoice in those triumphant successes in foreign lands with which it has pleased God to bless the various sections of the church of Christ. Willingly and gratefully do we acknowledge the Missionary labours of all who preach the Gospel which is truly the power of God unto salvation; and sincerely do we pray that God may be with them, and make them the instruments of good. It is, however, our duty to bring before you those Missions in which we ourselves are more particularly engaged. We need not trace to you the history of our Missionary proceedings. You know that, from a very early period of our connexion, existence, they have occupied the serious attention of the Conference. We have been encouraged to persevere by the blessing which has attended the labours of the Missionaries, by the evidently providential character of those calls and openings which have from time to time been afforded, and by the joyfulness and zeal with which our beloved people have listened to the calls, and enabled the servants of the Lord to pass to their important work by the openings placed before them. We will only refer, for the purpose of illustrating the progress of this great work, to the brief period which has elapsed since the organization of the General Wesleyan Missionary Society in 1814. In that time, instances of success have followed each other so rapidly, and have possessed, separately, such causes for thankfulness and joy, as to have prevented, in some measure, the view of their combined and extensive result. Some conception of it may be formed by those who glance at the number of our Missionary stations in both hemispheres, and who remember that in these stations are found no fewer than 84,234 members of our society, besides the other members of the congregations attending the religious services which the Missionaries conduct. Of these, 5,730 have been added during the past year. Taking the year 1830, as a point of more distant comparison, for the purpose of showing the regularity of the increase, we find that the number of members in society was 41,206; so that there has been an increase, in eleven years, amounting to 43,028.

But there is one pleasing point of view in which it is absolutely necessary to consider the subject. The Committee of Management, believing it to be their duty to listen to the calls which they could but regard as providential, and urged onwards in this work by the strongly-expressed wishes of their friends in every part of our Connexion, have, during the last few years, so extended their plans, as to raise the Annual Expenditure considerably above the Annual Income, so that a large debt has been consequently incurred. This, of course, cannot be suffered to increase. The annual income and expenditure must be brought near to each other, either by a considerable and steadily maintained augmentation of the former, or by a most painful diminution of the latter: painful, we say, because it can only be occasioned by a withdrawal of a large number of Missionaries from their posts of honourable and useful labour. It is not for us to dictate, in any degree whatever, the steps that should be taken to relieve the present embarrassment. We earnestly hope that it will not be found necessary to confine our operations within a narrower limit. The Executive Committee have, in all cases, followed only what they believed to be the loadings of Providence, and even these they have not admitted except on the most careful, we believe we may say, the most scrupulous, examination. And the success which has in all instances followed these extended operations, has been received, when publicly announced, with the strongest expressions of approbation; and the Committee has been not only encouraged, but even urged, to proceed on the same scale. None of those movements, therefore, have been either speculative, or executed without the cordial concurrence of their Christian friends and supporters; so that we must again express our earnest hope that some means will be devised to obviate the painful necessity of withdrawing the Mis-

sionaries from stations upon which they entered by doors plainly opened for them, by the gracious interposition of Providence. You will see, from the Resolutions which we have passed on this subject, and which you will find in the printed Minutes of the present Conference, that its details will be brought before you in the course of the year. We can only say, that we commend them to your most serious attention. Of your affectionate and zealous liberality we have had too many proofs to permit us to entertain doubt. We pray that the Great Head of the Church may himself direct you, and enable you to do what we are sure in your heart to do, for the support—and we will even yet say, if possible, for the extension—of his own most glorious cause.

In the course of the past year twenty-eight of the Wesleyan Ministers have been removed by death; some of them of very long standing among us; others have been mysteriously removed in the midst of their labours and usefulness. In their last moments they witnessed a good confession; testifying in death the power of those truths which they had lived to proclaim. But, as the usual memorials respecting these lamented brethren will be inserted in the Annual Minutes, we do not here address you more particularly on the subject.

Other valuable members of the Connexion have likewise been removed by death; among whom we feel it right to mention the venerable William Dawson, who, after many years of useful and acceptable labour as a Local Preacher, has this year died in the Lord. Few men were ever more extensively known in the Wesleyan Connexion in Great Britain, or more highly esteemed wherever known; it is therefore unnecessary that we should speak to you at any length of either his character, talents, or labours. Earnestly desirous of promoting the prosperity of the work of God, especially in its Missionary department, he devoted his very popular talents to its advocacy. His numerous sermons and addresses, delivered with all that sanctified energy which belonged to his character, were highly acceptable, and often produced the most important results. His removal was sudden, and he was engaged in his valuable labours to the last. During the brief interval between his final seizure and death, he was enabled to express his unflinching trust in the Saviour who had died for him, and been his guide through life. While he lived he had always been ready to attend to the voice of Providence when it called him to labour; by the grace of God he was not less ready when suddenly called to die. The calmness which he manifested on experiencing what he felt to be the stroke of death, and the holy joy with which he at once commended his spirit to his Redeemer, proved, that while he had long and extensively lived what may be termed a public life, he had yet maintained all the inward power of religion, and had walked humbly with God. His happy death was a suitable close to his holy and useful life.

Many, indeed, in the course of the year, have been removed from our societies to the church triumphant. From the specimens of their dying experience which are, month after month, recorded in our Magazine, as well as from our own personal observations, we rejoice to know that these, likewise, have died well. And though dead, they are not lost to the family of God; for that exists in heaven as well as upon earth. It would greatly contribute to enrich our spirituality, were we devoutly to remember that we are come, in spirit, to the heavenly Jerusalem; to the general assembly and things, may abound to every good work; being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."

And this circumstance has made the deeper impression on our minds,—that, as we have already said, the year has been one of most painful depression. Many of you, we doubt not, have been called, through this pressure of the times, to severe and very trying sufferings. Let us all unite in prayer, beloved brethren, that it may please Almighty God to revive these interests of the country which have experienced interruption, that they may prosper as heretofore. In the mean while, be assured that we deeply sympathize with you in all your trials. You are not ignorant of the weighty facts, that to the afflicted many promises of consolation and support are given in Scripture, and that their afflictions are chastenings, permitted by God's fatherly love, and yielding "the precious fruit of

We solemnly exhort you, beloved brethren, to the diligent cultivation of this heavenly-mindedness. The world as strongly tempts you as ever to walk by sight, and if once you enter into the spirit of the world, no matter what particular direction it may take, you are in imminent danger of making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. While, therefore, you are careful to be actively diligent in your temporal business, forget not "the invisible things of the

righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." May "God, that comforteth those that are cast down," comfort you in all your tribulation, and cause all these things to work together for your good!

In relation to the numerical state of our societies, we are thankful to be able to inform you, that the increase, during the past year, has been, in Great Britain, 5,614, and in Ireland, (notwithstanding the difficulties under which our brethren there continue to labour,) 221. The increase on the Foreign stations raises the whole amount, for the year, to 11,555. The number of members of society in Great Britain and Ireland is, 350,000; and on the Missionary stations, 84,234: making a total of 440,204. Beloved brethren, see "that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel." Need we tell you that such a body, united in holy and fervent affection, and consistently seeking to promote all the purposes of their Christian fellowship, cannot fail of being a blessing to the world? But this depends on the maintenance of your personal piety. Ye are the salt of the earth only so long as ye retain your savour. Guard against a lukewarm and backsliding spirit. And be constant and earnest in your prayers to God for the prosperity of his work. When this Address is read to you, we shall be about commencing the labours of the year. In every place let this commencement be connected with your prayers for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as well as for his providential direction of all the plans which may be adopted, in the course of the year, for the stability and extension of the work which we have all so much at heart. We beseech you, "pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified."

For ourselves we can most sincerely say, "Now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." May God abundantly bless you, and make you to be a blessing to all with whom you may be associated. May the whole world your "influence feel," your "Gospel grace partake." Keep in remembrance the vocation with which ye are called, and be careful to walk as becometh saints. And may Almighty God cleanse the thoughts of your heart by the inspiration of his Holy Spirit, that you may perfectly love him, worthily magnify his holy name, and, finally, by his mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign'd, by order of the Conference. JAMES DIXON, President. JOHN HANNAN, Secretary. Manchester, August 12th, 1841.

WESTERN CANADA. PASTORAL ADDRESS OF THE CANADA WESTERN DISTRICT MEETING TO THE SOCIETIES UNDER ITS CARE. DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:—The Head of the Church has graciously permitted us to assemble together for the investigation and arrangement of our affairs; and we gladly avail ourselves of the present opportunity to address you on those subjects which pertain to our sacred vocation and in which we and our beloved flocks feel a deep and absorbing interest. In the present position of our affairs, we wish to remind you, distinctly and affectionately, of the important objects at which we, in connexion with our honoured Fathers and Brethren in Great Britain, and of the means by which we are labouring to secure and promote them. We exist for no secular, no selfish or political end. We see a world lying in the wicked one; and by the simple promulgation and enforcement of the Gospel we seek to reclaim it. One hundred years have elapsed since the institution of our beloved Wesleyan Methodism; but it still retains its purity, energy, and catholicity. We remember the years of our Founder and his coadjutors—the years of the right-hand of the Most High—and we endeavour to walk by the same rule, and mind the same thing. God hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation, and, being Ambassadors for Christ, we beseech men, in his stead, to be reconciled to God. And we praise God and rejoice that we labour not in vain. Thousands in our beloved Fatherland, and in the Parent connexion, are rejoicing in God their Saviour, multitudes in the various divisions of the earth and the scattered islands of the ocean are returning to the celestial Zion, with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; and we, in this remote valley of the Ganges, are striv-

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