

witnesses of this as his other works to all the nations of the earth. Christ also, in connection with his miracles, frequently blessed and sanctified the affections of the varied relations of life. On other occasions he relieved the mourning hearts of a childless father, a widowed mother, a bereaved sister, and approved their love—and so here, in his first display of his almighty power, he condescends to smile upon the joy with which youthful hearts set out together on the journey of life.

Christ's mother, knowing from his reply that his wisdom would suggest some relief from their difficulty, had given the servants orders to obey any directions he might give them. He commands them to fill six waterpots, which stood at hand, with water, and, drawing it out again, bear it to the governor of the feast, by whom it is found to be the best and purest wine.

The miracle itself, like the occasion, is characteristic of the Saviour. In a simple, yet unmistakable manner, it demonstrates that he is the God of nature. When he heals the withered hand, he shows that he can set in motion the secret springs and vital currents of life. When he raises the dead, he shows that he can call back the soul from the eternal world and re-unite it to the body; and thus here the same "mighty God," who, through sunshine and showers and rolling seasons, and all the machinery of the vegetable world, prepares sustenance for man, proclaims himself able, without any natural means, to produce the same results. Well may St. John close his narrative by saying that he "manifested his glory." It is indeed the glory of Divine wisdom and power. May we, like the Disciples of old, while we admire him, acknowledge him as our God, our Master, our Saviour.

N. B.

OUR BACKSLIDERS.

We sincerely believe there is not a more diligent and successful body of christian ministers in the world than those of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada. There may be found individual exceptions, and there are probably in other Churches individual ministers who excel some of them in self denying zeal and successful efforts in advancing the kingdom of our blessed Lord. We fear, however, our success is not by any means commensurate with our labours, owing to a want of proper adjustment of our efforts, and the system of procedure which has grown up in Methodism all over our Province as well as in the neighbouring Republic.

Whilst we freely admit that these abundant labours and sacrifices have been crowned with success, as the number of our churches and the in-