

## CENTENARY OF METHODISM.

MR. EDITOR.—I have read in your 24th number the very interesting and delightful extracts from the London Watchman, relative to the great meeting at Manchester, preparatory to the celebration of the approaching Wesleyan Centenary; and also your editorial remarks, in which you express your confident anticipations that the Wesleyans of these Districts will evince their gratitude to heaven, in some MONUMENTAL and CONNEXIONAL way, suited to the occasion.

In these sentiments I perfectly coincide; and although it is probable our doings will be but as a "drop in the bucket," compared with those princely donations which you have reported; yet, I feel determined for one, to do my part, in some way or other.

But, Mr. Editor, I wish to know what monumental trophy to Methodism you contemplate for these two Districts? I think the exertion of the body will very much depend upon the answer to this enquiry. If you contemplate raising a sum of money equal to our annual missionary subscriptions, or even double that amount, it will make but a small figure as a part of the One Hundred Thousand Pounds, which, it is confidently expected, will be realized. Perhaps, Sir, you have not seriously thought of any particular mode of perpetuating the gratitude of the Wesleyans of these Provinces for the benefits they have received from the ministry of this body. If you will permit me, I will suggest a mode of erecting a Provincial Wesleyan Monument, which will be beneficent in its character, and imperishable in its duration. You will at once perceive that I mean a Classical and Theological Academy upon Wesleyan principles, similar in its objects to that of Cobourg in Upper Canada.

The necessity of such an institution for the intellectual and spiritual benefit of our youth, has been long felt. Ten years since, an effort was made, to set on foot something of the kind, by a few friends at Halifax; but it fell through for want of a suitable master to conduct it! If I am not greatly mistaken, the want of such an institution to our body, has been increasingly felt ever since. And will there ever be a more suitable time for commencing the grand work, than the approaching Centenary celebration? I think not. The very announcement of your intentions of such an object, will be a powerful appeal to every Wesleyan, and friend of Wesleyanism in the three Provinces. What was it, Sir, that called forth such an amazing and spontaneous effort of benevolence at the meeting at Manchester? It was the conviction that a Theological Institution, Missions Premises, a Missionary Ship, &c. &c. were wanted,—were NECESSARY,—and the thing was done. So will it be in these Provinces in an humble degree. It is necessary to our very existence as a religious body.

Do you doubt the propriety of such an assertion? Then allow me to call your attention to one fact, namely, the lamentable deficiency of preachers on the mission stations in this Province. The Committee in London have repeatedly informed us that we must depend mainly upon native agency for the supply of ministers in these Colonies. That there is no deficiency of native talent, all know that are acquainted with the people. But what has been done to aid the laudable endeavours of pious young men to prepare for our great work? Absolutely nothing. No wonder then, that young men have not been found to fill up our stations. Are we always to remain in this state of inactivity on a subject of such vital importance to the existence of our body? I trust not. We are mistaken, Sir, if we suppose that the well informed inhabitants of these Colonies will turn aside from the well educated ministry of the church of England, the Presbyterian, and the Baptist denominations, to listen to an uneducated Wesleyan Ministry. And why should they? Are not our people equal in intelligence and worldly circumstances with that of other denominations in the Provinces, and have they not equal zeal for God, and the advancement of his cause? Again, I would ask, why should not the Wesleyan body enjoy the blessings of a liberal education in these Provinces, as well as in England, the United States, or our sister colonies in the Canadas?

All that is wanting is the united zeal and co-operation of our Ministers and people, and things will be done. Suitable premises and furniture is all that will be needed at the first. The Institution will soon maintain itself. Let the Ministers of our connection imitate the example set them by their fathers and brethren at home,—let THEM lead the way, and soon we shall find a noble, imperishable monument to the honour of Wesleyanism in these Provinces, that will encourage the youth of the country to come forward and fill up the ranks of our Missionaries, and greatly relieve the anxious solicitude of the noble-minded Committee in London, under whose auspices our Missionaries act.

Hoping you will give these hints a place in your next number, I remain yours, truly,  
AN OLD METHODIST.

Horton, 16th January, 1839.

DELAY NOT.—There is a knock, which will be the last knock; a call, which will be the last call; and after that, no more knocks or calls, but an eternal silence as to any overture of mercy or grace.—FLAVEL.

## PROSPECTUS FOR VOLUME THE SECOND.

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