

REPORT,

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IN presenting the THIRD REPORT of the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY AUXILIARY SOCIETY of the NEW-BRUNSWICK District, the Committee feel much satisfaction in meeting the friends of this good cause in a tone of congratulation on the efficiency of their past exertions, and with the most lively sentiments of gratitude to Almighty God, for the encouraging success which has attended the parent Institution in the widely extended field of its operations.

The progress of Christian Missions in the arduous but merciful enterprize, to enlighten and bless the world, cannot be contemplated by a pious mind without feelings of the deepest interest: every year adds to the number of their victories; and by hastening the period of their universal triumph over the polluting superstitions which have so long debased and afflicted mankind, strengthens the confidence and invigorates the efforts of their benevolent supporters.

We are warranted by the faithful word of prophecy, connected with the signs of the times, in believing that the sublime and glorious object to which the united prayers and energies of the whole Christian Church are directed, will be certainly, and perhaps speedily realized. The Protestant Church, which has been for some time increasingly *Catholic* in its *spirit*, is already, in no small degree, *Catholic* also in its *extent*; and encircles in its pale people of many nations, and kindreds, and tongues. It is true, the aggregate number of converts made by all Missionary Societies taken collectively, is comparatively small; but then they are the first fruits of nations:—they prove, by actual experiment, that *universal man* may be evangelized. If our dove of peace has returned with but one olive branch in its mouth, we have satisfactory assurance that the wasting waters of that deluge, by which the earth has for so many ages been made desolate, are beginning to retire; and that the soil is prepared to receive and supply the labours of the husbandman;—peace, joy, and righteousness have already visited the shores of many Continents and Islands, over which a dark and dreary winter has long held its desolating reign; and they are the harbingers of a universal spring. The time of the singing