

though they may not please the eye have their uses. If we observe the whole race of vegetables, we shall still find now and greater varieties. How vast a difference, and how many links do we discover between the grass which grows among the stones, and that excellent plant which affords us the best nutriment, and which is justly termed the "staff of life!" In plants which creep and twine about each other, what a difference between the ivy, which clings to the mouldering battlement, and the vine, whose fruit affords such delicious drink! Amongst the trees, what a difference between the wild plum-tree and the oak!

With what wisdom has God arranged all his works! This is the natural conclusion to be drawn from these reflections. How admirably is the whole plan of the vegetable kingdom formed, and how perfectly executed! In all his works the useful and agreeable are united. For it is not merely to gratify our sight that he has formed plants so astonishingly different from each other. Each revolving month is marked with the divine goodness, and every gift affords our nerves new pleasures and our hearts fresh occasions of love and gratitude.—Had the proofs of our Maker's bounty been more uniform, our inattention might have admitted of some excuse; but as they are so interestingly varied, we are altogether unpardonable if we behold them with indifference. Let us therefore, in the presence of the whole creation, adore the Almighty Architect, with becoming sentiments of respect and veneration. In contemplating the surprising varieties in the vegetable kingdom, we are compelled to acknowledge that both his wisdom and goodness surpass our comprehension. Let us no longer behold the diversified beauties of plants and flowers without adoring the Creator, and acknowledging his wisdom, power, and goodness.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WESLEYAN MISSIONARIES.

The following is an Extract from the Standing Instructions of the Committee to all who are sent out as Missionaries, relative to their conduct on Foreign Stations:—

"V. We cannot omit, without neglecting our duty, to warn you against meddling with political parties, or secular disputes. You are teachers of Religion; and that alone should be kept in view. It is, however, a part of your duty as Ministers, to enforce, by precept and example, a cheerful obedience to lawful authority. You know that the venerable Wesley was always distinguished by his love to his country, by his conscientious loyalty, and by his attachment to that illustrious family which has so long filled the throne of Great Britain. You know that your Brethren at home are actuated by the same principles, and walk by the same rule; and we have confidence in you that you will preserve the same character of religious regard to good order and submission to the powers that be—in which we glory. Our motto is, 'Fear God, and honour the King;' and we recollect who hath said, 'Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.'

"VI. You will, on a foreign station, find yourselves in circumstances very different from those in which you are at home, with regard to those who are in authority under our gracious Sovereign. It is probable you will frequently come under their immediate notice and observation. We are, however, persuaded, that while you demean yourselves as you ought, you will be generally favoured with their protection. On your arrival at your Stations, you will be instructed what steps to take in order to obtain the protection of the local governments; and we trust that your subsequent good behaviour towards governors, and all who are in authority, will be such as shall secure to you the enjoyment of liberty to instruct and promote the salvation of those to whom you are sent.

"VII. Those of you who are appointed to the West-India Colonies, being placed in stations of considerable delicacy, and which require, from the state of society there, peculiar circumspection and prudence, on the one hand, and zeal, diligence, and patient perseverance, on the other; you are required to attend to the following directions, as specially applicable to your Mission there:—

"1. Your particular designation is to endeavour the religious instruction and conversion of the ignorant, pagan, and neglected black and coloured population of the Island or Station to which you may be appointed, and of all others who may be willing to hear you.

"2. Where Societies are already formed, you are required to watch over them with the fidelity of those who must give up their account to Him who hath purchased them with his blood, and in whose Providence they are placed under your care. Your labours must be constantly directed to improve them in the knowledge of Christianity, and to enforce upon them the experience and practice of its doctrines and duties, without intermingling doubtful controversies in your administrations: being mainly anxious, that those over whom you have pastoral care, should clearly understand the principal doctrines of the Scriptures, feel their renovating influence upon their hearts, and become 'holy in all manner of conversation and godliness.' And, in order to this, we recommend that your sermons should consist chiefly of clear expositions of the most important truths of Holy Writ, enforced with affection and fervour on the consciences and conduct of them that hear you; that you frequently and familiarly explain portions of the Scriptures; and that, as extensively as you possibly can, you introduce the method of teaching children, and the less instructed of the adult slaves and others, by the excellent catechisms with which you are furnished.

"3. It is enforced upon you, that you continue no person a member of your Societies, whose 'conversion is not as becometh the Gospel of Christ.' That any member of Society who may relapse into his former habits, and become a polygamist, an adulterer, or an unclean person; who shall be idle and disorderly; disobedient to his owner (if a slave); who shall steal, or be in any other way immoral or irreligious; shall be put away, after due admonition, and proper attempts to reclaim him from the 'error of his way.'

"4. Before you receive any person into Society, you shall be satisfied of his desire to become acquainted with the religion of Christ, and to obey it; and if he has not previously been under Christian instruction, nor baptized, you are, before his admission as a Member, diligently to teach him the Christian faith, and the obligations which he takes upon himself by baptism; so as to be assured of his having obtained such knowledge of the principles of religion, and such belief of them, as to warrant you to administer to him that ordinance. Beside this, no person is to be admitted into Society, without being placed first on trial, for such time as shall be sufficient to prove whether his conduct has been reformed, and that he has wholly renounced all those vices to which he may have been before addicted.

"5. You are to consider the children of the Negroes and coloured people of your Societies and Congregations as a part of your charge; and it is recommended to you, wherever it is practicable and prudent, to establish Sunday or other Schools for their instruction. It is to be considered by you as a very important part of your duty as a Missionary, to catechise them as often as you conveniently can, at stated periods; and to give your utmost aid to their being brought up in Christian knowledge, and in industrious and moral habits.

"6. As, in the Colonies in which you are called to labour, a great proportion of the inhabitants are in a state of slavery, the Committee most strongly call to your recollection, what was so fully stated to you when you were accepted as a Missionary to the West Indies, that your only business is to promote the moral and religious improvement of the slaves to whom you may have access, without, in the least degree, in public or private interfering with their civil condition. On all persons in the state of slaves, you are diligently and explicitly to enforce the same exhortations which the Apostles of our Lord, administered to the slaves of ancient nations, when by their ministry they embraced Christianity: Eph. vi. 5—8, 'Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye service, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good-will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doth, the same shall be received of the Lord,

whether he be bond or free.' Col. iii. 22—25, 'Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh: not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God: and whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.'

"7. You are directed to avail yourselves of every opportunity to extend your labours among the slaves of the islands where you may be stationed: but you are in no case to visit the slaves of any plantation without the permission of the owner or manager; nor are the times which you may appoint for their religious services to interfere with the owners' employ; nor are you to suffer any protracted meetings in the evening, not even at negro burials, on any account whatever. In all these cases you are to meet even unreasonable prejudices, and attempt to disarm suspicion, however groundless, so far as you can do it consistently with your duties as faithful and laborious Ministers of the Gospel.

"8. As many of the negroes live in a state of polygamy, or in a promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, your particular exertions are to be directed to the discountenancing and correcting these vices, by pointing out their evil, both in public and in private, and by maintaining the strictest discipline in the Societies. No man, living in a state of polygamy, is to be admitted a Member, or even on trial, who will not consent to live with one woman as his wife, to whom you shall join him in matrimony, or ascertain that this rite has been performed by some other minister; and the same rule is to be applied, in the same manner, to a woman proposing to become a member of Society. No female, living in a state of concubinage with any person, is to be admitted into Society, so long as she continues in that sin.

"The Committee caution you against engaging in any of the civil disputes or local politics of the Colony to which you may be appointed, either verbally, or by correspondence with any person at home, or in the Colonies. The whole period of your temporary residence in the West Indies is to be filled up with the proper work of your Mission.—You are not to become parties in any civil quarrel; but are to 'please all men for good to edification;' intent upon the solemn work of your office and upon that eternal state, in the views of which the Committee trust you will ever think and act.

"10. In cases of opposition to your ministry, which may arise on the part of individuals, or of any of the Colonial Legislatures, a meek and patient spirit and conduct are recommended to you. You will in particular guard against all angry and resentful speeches, and in no case attempt to inflame your Societies and hearers with resentment against your persecutors or opposers. Your business, in such cases, after every prudent means of obtaining relief has failed in your own hands, is with the Committee at home; who will immediately take such steps as may secure to you that protection, from a mild and tolerant Government, which they hope your peaceable and previous conduct, your labours and successes, will ever merit for you.

"11. The instructions under this and under the former heads (V.—VII.) are to be read over annually at the meeting of every District Committee by the Chairman; who is to inquire whether they have been observed on the part of the Brethren; and the answer shall be reported in the District Minutes regularly, and with them transmitted to the Committee in London. Every Superintendent is not only charged with the observance of them himself, but is responsible, as far as may be, for their observance by the Brethren under his direction, or for an immediate report to the district, or to the Managing Committee in London, in any case in which they may have been violated.

"N. B. The Directions to the West-India Missionaries are also to be considered as strictly obligatory on all others, as far as they are applicable to the circumstances of their respective Stations.

"VIII. It is peremptorily required of every Missionary in our Connexion to keep a Journal and to send home frequently such copious abstracts of it as may give a full and particular account of his labours, success, and prospects. He is also required to give such details of a religious kind, as may be generally interesting to the friends of Missions at home; par-