

The Wesleyan.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1811.

WESLEYAN ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING.

ON THURSDAY, May 20, 1811, the WESLEYAN MINISTERS in the CANADA EASTERN DISTRICT will assemble in MONTREAL, for the transaction of the usual business of their Annual Meeting. The sittings to commence at six, A.M. of the above date. The Missionaries are requested to pay in the remaining Centenary subscriptions of their several stations, at the above meeting.

FEARING lest the reference made in the editorial of our last number to certain "opinions" expressed by the Rev. Mr. CAUGHEY at different times, in discourses and addresses delivered by him during his recent labours in this city, to all of which we said we were not quite prepared to subscribe,—lest it should be misunderstood to the disparagement of his doctrine and orthodoxy, and his able and successful ministry, we deem it proper to say, that we had no reference whatever to the great, essential doctrines of the Gospel as stated and enforced by him, his views and statements of which we believe to be scriptural and Wesleyan:—but to certain peculiar views, and strong expressions on certain subjects, not involving any principles affecting either Christian faith, experience, or practice, but of a purely speculative and non-essential character. We need not mention these speculative points; we have made our reverend brother acquainted with them—who, in the exercise of his Christian candour, is perfectly willing to allow us to differ from him in opinion on these points, should any difference in reality exist.

Having given this explanation, we would again record the high estimation in which we hold the character and principles of the Rev. J. CAUGHEY, and renew our grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for the gracious manner in which our Societies have been visited throughout the district, and especially for the work of revival and conversion with which we have been favoured in Montreal, and to which we believe the ministry and labours of our excellent friend, under the Divine blessing, have largely contributed.

In another column will be found an extract of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Douse, of the St. Clair Indian Mission, which, we doubt not, will be read with interest and pleasure by those who are concerned for the spiritual and general welfare of the Aboriginal Tribes of this country. It furnishes pleasing evidence of the success of the Gospel among the long neglected, and in many respects, deeply injured red men of the forest; and that knowledge, civilization, and general improvement, keep pace with religious advancement. The drunken Indian hunter and warrior, has become a sober, serious Christian, a useful citizen, and a thriving agriculturalist—the dark and wretched wigwam in which he and his family once huddled together, has, with all the pagan misery connected with it, been exchanged for a comfortable dwelling, the shade of domestic harmony and love, in which an altar is erected to the pure worship of the Great Spirit, and which is often converted into a temple of prayer and praise. The yell of the war-whoop has died away, and the songs of Zion alone are heard in all their habitations.

Hence, though long neglected, much, we rejoice to know, has, by Missionary exertions, been

accomplished, within the last twenty years, in behalf of our Indian brethren and fellow-subjects in different parts of Western Canada. Beside those Indians who are under the religious instruction of the agents of the Episcopal Church, several hundreds, belonging to different tribes and nations, are members of the Wesleyan Societies, and several of their principal chiefs have become efficient ministers, and otherwise officially assist in promoting the religious instruction of their countrymen. And devoutly do we hope that the good work of Christian instruction and conversion, will spread from tribe to tribe, and from nation to nation, until the aborigines throughout the entire western wilderness, shall be taught to know and adore the only living and true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent.

An illustrious member of the Royal family, and friend of the Indians, with whose correspondence we have been honoured, in one of his letters observes:—"The Sun of the Great Spirit is shining upon his red children; it is for his more favoured ones of a fairer skin, now to take the advantage of it. Lord GLENELO appears to me to be a blessing upon the Indians: he is willing—more, desirous to make up to those now living for the unrighteous dealings of the past, in consequence of which the departed are gone, leaving their descendants our creditors, whose debts, justice herself would never be able to liquidate." May the wishes and expectations of this distinguished and benevolent individual, relative to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Indians in Canada, be speedily and fully realised. We trust that these Christian Missions to the Pagan Aborigines of this extensive, and we trust now happily united Province of the British Empire, will continue to be remembered in the intercessions of the Church, and to receive the liberal support of the Christian public.

We are pleased to learn from the last *Kingston Chronicle*, that our esteemed friend, JOHN COWTHER, Esq. has been elected Mayor of Kingston.

ANECDOTE OF REV. W. COKE.

ON one occasion, the Reverend Doctor was preaching at Bristol, and because the church was too small to accommodate the crowds that came to hear him, a platform was erected outside, from which he addressed the listening multitude. On this occasion, the Rev. Mr. MINGELLY and his colleague, two Wesleyan Ministers, took their station, one on each side of the preacher. The Doctor, as usual, became highly animated—his fine countenance beamed as it were with angelical joy, while expatiating on the love of the Saviour, his favourite theme, and with a voice of uncommon shrillness. An old woman in the congregation was so charmed and overpowered by his appearance and eloquence, that, raising and clasping her hands, she exclaimed, "Why I declare it is just like Jesus Christ himself between two thieves!"

THE REV. CHARLES WESLEY'S LIFE.—We discover from the January number of the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, that the Rev. THOMAS JACKSON has a life of this distinguished minister of Christ "in a state of considerable forwardness for the press." The work will include a review of his poetry, and historical notices concerning the rise and progress of Methodism. It will also contain an answer to several misrepresentations in the life and times of the Countess of Huntingdon, and in the Biographical Works of the Rev. EDWARD SIDNEY.—*Zion's Herald*.

THE following is an extract of a letter from the Rev. JOHN BOULAND, dated Melbourne, March 25th, 1811:—

"Since my last to you, containing a brief account of the revival of religion on this circuit, the Lord has done still greater things for us, whereof we are glad. We were induced to hold meetings similar to those which we held in Melbourne, in other parts of the circuit: in each of which the Lord was eminently present, to bless with the comforting and sanctifying influences of his grace. The first place, after Melbourne, to which we went, was Brompton, where a Society has long existed, but in which, for the last two or three years, religious influence was weak and fitful. We commenced on the evening of Sunday the 21st February, when brother HITCHCOCK preached; who, we were sorry to find, felt obliged to leave us the following morning. We continued the meetings until Friday evening, holding three services each day; when twenty-two individuals gave pleasing evidence of being renewed in the spirit of their mind—and the Society at large, of a fresh baptism of the Holy Ghost; in which latter fact we feel constrained to rejoice even with that of the conversion of the others.

"Being again joined by Mr. RAY, who had been obliged to return to Quebec, and another friend, Mr. HAGINOTIAM, who accompanied him, we went to the back part of Kingsey, and commenced with a prayer-meeting on Saturday evening, the 27th, and held three services on each of the four succeeding days—when forty souls praised the Lord for bringing them out of the horrible pit, and putting their feet upon a rock; here also the Society has been greatly quickened and blessed. While engaged in this place, we were joined by two other of our friends from Quebec, Mr. PETER LESKOR, a Local Preacher, and Mr. PAULSON, the only survivor in the melancholy catastrophe—the burning of the house of Mr. JAMES SMITH, and the destruction of his life, with that of his wife, servant girl, and apprentice boy. These brethren rendered us very essential service during the time they could remain; they were obliged to leave the following week.

"From Kingsey we returned to Melbourne, where we again held meetings on the evenings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; when four more were added to the sixty-eight converted at the previous meetings in this place.

"Taking up the regular appointments on the Sabbath, we were brought to Durham in the evening—where, being kindly favoured by the Rev. D. DUNKLEY and his congregation with the use of their church, we commenced another protracted meeting—and where, especially, we were constrained to own and adore the wondrous operations of the Divine Spirit. He slew upon the right hand and upon the left; nor was he less willing to make alive and to bind up—inasmuch so, that on the evening of the ninth day, when we were obliged to bring the meetings to a close, one hundred and thirteen souls praised God for a sense of his pardoning love, singing with us the well-known poetical stanzas, 'My God be reconciled,' &c. and 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow'; thus making in all two hundred and forty-seven souls who were enabled to profess a knowledge of salvation by the remission of their sins, since the commencement of these meetings. For many, many reasons we say, to God be the praise—yea, be all the praise."

THE Seminary Ordinance is confirmed—the Bishop of Exeter had withdrawn his motion to address Her Majesty to disallow it, and consequently it has become a law.—*Com. Mess.*

THE Jews have held a solemn thanksgiving for the success of Sir Moses Montefiore's Mission to the East. The ceremonies were very imposing, and a magnificent collection, for the benefit of the poor, was made.—*Id.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Rev. Mr. SLIGHT's letter has been received, and his orders for the Wesleyan attended to.

DIED,

In this city, on Sunday, the 4th instant, John, son of Mr. Thomas Francis, aged seven years.