

From Mrs. E. R. Coward  
Bridgetown, N. S.

**REPORT, &c.**

THE presentation to the religious public of an Annual Report, is an event which will communicate either painful or pleasurable emotions. Were there no features in the institution whose history it related of positive declension, still, even a stationary condition would be one to be grieved over: it would either imply that the fields of benevolence had yielded the richest harvest which could be gathered; or that the official agents of the Society had been deficient in zeal, and had become weary of their work. It is a subject of gratitude and holy exultation, that the Report of the Auxiliary Wesleyan Missionary Society, for the New Brunswick District, is again free from discouragement: it resembles more the message delivered by the angelic Host at Bethlehem, than the prophet's roll, wherein was written, "lamentations, and mourning, and woe." The cause of our joy is principally spiritual; in the extension of Divine knowledge, and the accession of good which has been effected to the human race.

That is a morbid sensibility which would preclude the introduction of subjects of a secular nature from having any open and confessed connection with those which are spiritual; as though the agency which a kind and benevolent Being is pleased to work by, must be as invisible to the human eye, as the wind which agitates and rocks into convulsions the boundless ocean. Upon this principle we must forget and despise the rod of Moses—the waters of Jordan—the rams horns which were used at the fall of Jericho—and the tree which was cast into the waters of Marah. Did such a state of things meet the Divine sanction, than the withholding of the gifts prescribed for the erection of the temple, would have been far more acceptable to God, than the willing offerings of the thousands of Israel who so cheerfully consecrated a part of their substance to religious purposes. It was by these the temple was erected and beautified, and by the continuance of the same spirit that ritual which has been the wonder of all successive ages was maintained and perpetuated. The system of means which has been set in motion by the Founder of our Faith is one highly honorable to the powers of the human mind, but of fearful responsibility to those whom he employs. With the increasing liberality of the church, we are privileged to connect the revival and extension of pure religion. By the wholesome doctrines of Protestantism frowning upon the claims of personal merit, we are induced to conclude that the consecration of a part of our worldly property to the spread of Gospel truth, is the effect of acknowledged obligation to God, and the result of increased religious feeling.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society has been again most generously supported during the past year. We might have been excused had we given place to doubts and fears; the aspect of the times has been one of gloom

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