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IN presenting their Annual Report, the Committee of the WESLEYAN-METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY wish to refer their friends to those first principles by which they were induced to engage in this benevolent enterprise, and to show that, while they have acted in obedience to the Divine command—in accordance with the genius of our Holy Religion—and in firm reliance upon the Divine blessing—the result has not disappointed their well founded and reasonable expectation.

They saw the Aborigines of this Country not only involved in the darkness and superstition of pagan idolatry, but living in the practice of those degrading vices which they had learned from their connexion with nominal Christians, and to the baneful influence of which they were so completely given up, that they were being swept away from our Land “like snow before the Sun.”

While they thus witnessed the remnant of a noble race withering away beneath the united curses of their pagan practices and the vices which they had learned from men who ought to have set them a better example,—they yielded to the imperative call of Christian duty—to the irresistible impulse of Christian benevolence—and determined to attempt the rescue of those degraded and injured sons of the forest from the power of those false opinions and abominable habits which were blasting their interests, temporal and eternal.

Their attempt to bring the Indian under the restraining influence and the elevating power of Christianity was looked upon with contempt by some; with pity by others, and with distrust by many; and even some, the warm friends of the enterprise, feared that nothing but disappointment would follow the well-meant efforts of those who gave their time and labours to this interesting, though arduous work.

But that God who has made of one blood all the nations that dwell upon the earth—He who has given to all minds a capability of being elevated by instruction; reprov'd by example; restrained by discipline; and sanctified by Religion:—He, in whose spiritual kingdom are to be brought men of all nations—He who sent his Son to save the world—He who makes his Ministers feel that they are debtors to the Greek and the Barbarian—He who commands his Ambassadors to preach His Gospel to every creature—He—approved their work—attended it with His effectual blessing—and the desirable result is, that hundreds of poor Indians have been converted from drunkenness to sobriety—from cruelty to commiseration—from poverty to comparative comfort—from ignorance, vice, and misery, to knowledge, purity, and happiness. The Gospel, which, like its Divine Author, is the same yesterday, to-day and