

one Circuit in England as you are now ; but do not kill yourself. I am almost angry with you for shortening your useful life." His zeal and love for souls, was as the "fire upon the Jewish altar," always burning ; and to the Missionary devotion of his early life doubtless it was owing, that he so soon came upon the supernumerary list : but he worked while it was day. With the venerable Wesley and Dr. Coke he kept up a regular correspondence, and to his judgment they paid considerable deference. In their letters to him, they speak of him in terms of warm commendation ; and therefore it was that so early as 1789, three years from the commencement of his regular itinerancy, we find him appointed as "presiding Elder, or general Superintendent of the Missions in Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Newfoundland." The estimation in which he was held by Dr. Coke (on whom then rested the principal management of the foreign Missions) may be seen from the following fact,—that the Doctor wished him to take the general superintendence of the Missions in the Leeward Islands. To this appointment Mr. Black acceded ; and, as preparatory to his entering upon the regular performance of its onerous duties, visited, in the year 1793, in company with the Doctor, the scene of his intended labours. The exercises of his mind at this period were intense and interesting. He thus sets them before us :—"To-morrow we are to sail for St. Eustatius. O my Lord, let thy presence go with us ; and if it is not for thy glory that I should go to the West Indies, let me not go ! I desire not to choose for myself : rather let infinite wisdom choose for me. Sometimes the thought of going to those islands appears to me like death and the grave ; but I feel resigned. 'Not my will, but thine be done !'" The day after they sailed, he thus writes in his journal :—"My great desire is to enjoy God, and to live in his will. His love, his favour, his will, are dearer to me than life itself. O, what is life without him ? But a dull, empty round !" This submissive state of mind he held fast throughout the voyage ; for we find him, when approaching its close, thus recording his feelings :—"I have had much pleasure this evening in my closet duties. I said, with the disciples on Mount Tabor, 'It is good to be here.' I feel thankful at the thought that infinite wisdom is at the helm of affairs, and directs the whole ; and here my soul would rest. Let me cheerfully go wherever thy providence appoints. Though the flesh would incline me to prefer England to any other part of the world, especially to the sultry climes of the West Indies, yet I wish to walk not after the will of the flesh, but after the will of my God. Sovereign of the world, sanctify my will ! Let all within me be in sweet subjection to thyself. A thousand times rather would I die, than live to sin against such goodness and purity as are in thee. To lose my place in the scale of being, would be a less evil, than to lose the image of God, and sink into the base drudgery of sin, and the vassalage of Satan."

His stay, however, in the West Indies was short. The brethren in the Nova-Scotia District thought his removal from among them would be attended with injury to the Mission ; and making their opinion known to Dr. Coke, he was continued in his former station.

In July 1791, he visited the island of Newfoundland. The result was a large accession to the Methodist society there, and the dawn of that brighter day which has since shone upon our Mission in that island. Newfoundland had early engaged the attention of Mr. Wesley. Some years previous to the visit of Mr. Black, Mr. Wesley, and Lady Huntingdon had prevailed on the Bishop of Bristol to give episcopal ordination to Laurence Coughlan, who had for several years travelled in our Connexion. He was sent thither. On his arrival he found the moral and spiritual condition of the people too much resem-

bling the bleak and gloomy coasts of the country in which they resided. After three years' toil and dis-appointment, he was the means of effecting much good. He established a society ; but its discipline and modes of worship, owing to the peculiar relations in which he stood, had neither the simplicity nor the freedom of Methodism in England. This want of independence marred, in some considerable degree, the good which had been effected. Mr. Black therefore found religion at a very low ebb on his arrival. He observes :—"I reached Carbonear, where I was joyfully received by B. M'Geary, a Methodist preacher. He said he had been weeping before the Lord over his lonely situation, and the deadness of the people, and that my coming was like life from the dead to him. There was a great work here, a number of years ago, under the ministry of Mr. Coughlan ; but some of the fruits of it are gone to heaven, some gone back unto the world, and now only about fifteen women meet in class." The arrival of Mr. Black retrieved the Mission from abandonment, (for Mr. M'Geary had determined to leave the island) and laid the foundation of its future prosperity. His visit to Newfoundland may be considered as forming the most useful and interesting portion of his Missionary life. As such, he thought it himself, and spoke of it to the last with feelings of great pleasure. He was indeed to that land as the messenger of mercy. No sooner did he open his providential embassy, than the Lord crowned his labours with success, and a blessed revival broke forth, marked by depth, and extent, and all the characters of a work truly divine. No less than two hundred souls were converted to God during his brief sojourn in Conception Bay. Nor are the fruits of that visit to be limited by its immediate results. He organized Methodism, settled the Mission property, and secured it to the Connexion, increased and inspirited the society, and, by laying their case before Mr. Wesley, obtained for them the help they needed. He then left their shores, and thus describes the circumstances connected with his departure :—"I think I never had so affecting a parting with any people before in my life. It was hard work to tear away from them. I was nearly an hour shaking hands with them, some twice and thrice over ; and even then we hardly knew how to part ; but I at last rushed from among them, and left them weeping as for an only son." In Newfoundland, though most of those who knew him have passed away, his memory is still blessed.

He reached Nova-Scotia from this Missionary excursion in October, 1791, after a rough and dangerous passage. But here new trials awaited him. "On my arrival," he says, "I was sorry to find that some painful and difficult circumstances had occurred, in consequence of which Mr. M—— is out of society, and we have no meeting-house to preach in. Lord, make all things to work for the best !" Mr. M—— continued for some time untractable, and would agree to no arrangements either for selling or letting the preaching-house. The mind of Mr. Black was much exercised ; but on this occasion, as on many others, he found a comforter in the excellent woman who was so truly a help meet for him. Several letters had passed between him and Mr. M——, who was still obstinate. "I was much affected," said he, "in reading the letters. The Lord pity that untoward man ! But the following letter from my dear wife much comforted me. She says, 'Blessed be God, you have a friend who can and will bear you up under all your trials. Fain would I help to bear your burdens ; for they are great at present. Long has our heavenly Father kept us from almost every thing that might disturb our peace ; but at length he sees fit in his godly wisdom to try us ; but O ! be faithful unto the end. May our gracious Lord be with you, to bless, direct, and comfort you.' The unyielding disposition of Mr. M—— rendered it necessary that measures should be used to procure another chapel. Our venerated friend engaged ar-

dently in this business, and in one day placed of worship in due

In the year 1812 his stations as Supernumerary the period of his decease many and important services her most endearing recollections Nor did he forget her chapel, to which he was visiting associations, her pounds ; and to the poor Halifax, the sum of fifty where are they ? and ever ?" The time can be seen for so many years Methodism in this Province lowship of the military church. Indications of were perceived by his they were scarcely perceived when it actually took a few days before his which was raging in heavenly smile, said, soon go : whether it be to his swollen legs) this leave it to my Master were numbered. On September he felt himself worse than fore the time of event towards me was, as it saw him, that of the usual Knowing that my whole visiting the cholera passed their habitations, and duties of the Circuit, he careful of my health of the church. I did not was so near.

When called to visit which he died, Sept. 9th quoted language of Dr.

"The chamber where I am privileged beyond the Quite in the verge of heaven"

I found him contending perfect possession of his sed by the complicated laboured in his last hour culty in speaking. "I trust Saviour to be precious long to others." He said no fear, no doubt; let what is best." I refer He said very impressively more. All is well." spirit was evidently much exercise. On leaving the be in that glory of which in the course of your life be there," he said, "me." After this he said and that with consideration were, "Give my fare and to the society ;" well."

As a man, Mr. Black was a man, and one that followed his piety was deep As a Minister, he possessed knowledge of divinity reading and study, and of truth. He was well-ture ; possessed a long souls ; was faithful, and short, he had all those to make the Minister, As the head of a family