

without meal?" "Well," said the old lady, "I think it would be poor stuff." "Well, mother," he proceeded, "what becomes of your bread when it is made?" "We eat it when it is good," she answered, "but when it is sour or mouldy we give it to the hogs."* High Calvinism, Universalism, and Infidelity abounded in the United States, and whatever existed there was transferred here. How to combat these was to them classical and mathematical studies. Their Divinity was fashioned by the Bible, as its leading and saving doctrines were taught and explained by Wesley and Fletcher; they had access to few other works. When we reflect that the country of which most of these missionaries were natives, and of which all had been residents,—was but just emerging from the long and severe war, which gave their land a national independent existence,—that books were extremely ^{scarce} ~~secure~~ as compared with our day,—and that money wherewith to purchase was scarcer still, the resources of their country being well nigh exhausted,—that most of these ministers were young men,—that in the history of our Church in Europe, so in the northern part of this continent, it was the comparatively poor who first and most gladly embraced the Gospel; it could scarcely be expected that they should be found men of highly cultivated minds and deeply read in the general literature of their age. They carried with them only a few books—for few their saddle-bags could contain—these were their Bible and Hymn Book, Discipline, Wesley's Notes and Sermons, and another invaluable book for the times—Fletcher's Checks. All their standard works had to be imported from England. In 1789, they made an effort towards publishing, themselves, in Philadelphia. The first book printed was Thomas A'Kempis, next was the Arminian Magazine—mostly a reprint of the English periodical of that name,—the Methodist Discipline, Saint's Rest, a Hymn Book, and Mr. Wesley's Primitive Physic. Their capital was \$600, loaned the concern by their Book Steward, John Dickens. The publication of the Magazine ceased at the end of two years, and there was no periodical until 1815, when the "New England Missionary Magazine," edited by Martin Ruter, appeared, but it also terminated its career when four quarterly numbers had been issued. "Zion's Herald" was, we believe, the next—a weekly newspaper. The first number was printed January 9th, 1823, on a small royal sheet, measuring only nine inches by sixteen inches. It will, therefore, be easily seen that our pioneers, in obtaining general knowledge, in every point

* Peck's Early Methodism.