

THE LATE REV. DR. BEECHAM.

The regretted death of Dr. Beecham brings to mind a concise record of the end of a man of unsullied character and great wisdom, in sacred history: "And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him and buried him in his house at Ramah." Without anticipating the following exceedingly acceptable statements and remarks from the *London Watchman*, in which we most cordially concur, we shall only say-- and we say it emphatically, that whether the departed be remembered as a Christian, as a Wesleyan, as a Preacher, as a Divine, as an Author, as a Connexional adviser, as a President of the British Conference, as a Representative of that Conference, or as a Missionary Secretary, he was eminent. He was prominent in the highest Connexional offices in perplexing times, and the urbanity of his christian manner was preserved; his catholic spirit was calm, and his sagacious mind, and constitutional principles shed a steady light, which served for conviction, guidance and hope. Not a few Missionaries will think of his affectionate counsels and hospitality during their stay at his house in London. He was the friend of the hapless and the wronged of many a region. His services for Wesleyan Methodism in the Caradas and Hudson's Bay cannot be forgotten. He has soon followed Robert Newton to heaven; and had he left no other memorial here, the new Eastern British American Wesleyan Conference which he formed, will perpetuate his fame.

It is gratifying to us in Canada that the Rev. Dr. Hoole succeeds him in the elevated senior office of the Missionary Secretariat, to which his past successful labours in the Foreign field, diversified and sanctified gifts, able writings, and judicious application to the Missionary Secretaryship for many years give him a just claim; and our fervent prayer is, that he, and the honoured ministers associated with him at the Centenary Hall, may be consoled in the loss which they, British Methodism, and the Missions have sustained, and that by their means, directed by the Divine Spirit, the Wesleyan Missionary Society may more than ever, and in every land, win men to the sway of the Redeemer.

Dr. Beecham was appointed one of the General Secretaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society at the Conference of 1831. He was then in the full vigor of his years, and much valuable service in the office of Secretary was reasonably expected from him. It is well remembered that he entered on its duties with the most diligent attention. But it was not generally supposed that he possessed the natural and acquired ability, which was afterwards developed by circumstances, for dealing with large and intricate questions of colonial policy, for exposing and grappling with the wrongs and oppressions to which aboriginal races of men in remote countries were subject, and for discerning the suitable time for opening new Missions, and extending those already commenced; as

well as for understanding and determining important questions relating to the interests of religion in our own country and the management of the affairs of our religious Society. During his residence in Liverpool, Dr. Bunting had formed a high opinion of his friend's character; the Rev. Richard Watson also visited Liverpool on the occasion after enquiries made of his colleague, the Rev. John Bowers, by Mr. James; and to their discernment and recommendation it is understood to be mainly owing that the Society was afterwards favored with Dr. Beecham's services.

At that time the Missions in the West Indies were in a most afflicted state. The spirit of slavery was rampant; religion among the negroes was frowned upon, and the Missionaries were persecuted to imprisonment and death. Dr.