

## STANDING REGULATIONS.

Correspondents must send their communications written in a legible hand, and free of postage; and entrust us, in confidence, with their proper names and address. The Editor holds not himself responsible for the opinions of correspondents—claiming the privilege of modifying or rejecting articles offered for publication—and cannot pledge himself to return those not inserted. Communications on business, and those intended for publication, when contained in the same letter, should, if practicable, be written on different parts of the sheet, so that they may be separated when they reach us. Communications and Exchanges should be addressed to the Editor, Halifax, N. S. The issue of the first seven numbers of this paper will be fortnightly, as preparatory to a weekly series, under official sanction. Price for the seven numbers is, 9d. in advance.

## THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, April 7, 1849.

In commencing our editorial duties, it may be deemed desirable for us to state, with brevity, the reasons which have led to the present publication, and the course we intend to pursue.

Our readers are aware of the efforts, which have been made by the Wesleyan Methodists in this, and the neighbouring Province, to circulate a Religious Periodical, for the purpose of diffusing Methodist information, and of giving currency to other interesting matter bearing on the subjects of religion and morality generally. We need but refer to the "NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE," "THE WESLEYAN," and the "BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE"; all of which, we have reason to believe, were, in their respective days, the means of doing no little good.

The latter work was suspended with the intention of publishing a weekly religious periodical under Wesleyan management; this more frequent mode of communication, having been thought to be more suitable to the times in which we live, and better adapted to meet the wants of our people and of the community. For reasons, which need not now be mentioned, the publication of a weekly paper has been kept in abeyance; but the condition of the religious world, the state of our own work, the oft-repeated and earnest requests of the members of our Church and Congregations in both Districts, with other urgent circumstances,—not overlooking the extensive and promising field for usefulness in this department, which requires to be cultivated by us as a section of the Christian Church,—call loudly at the present time for the resumption of a Periodical, which may answer at least as a diligent and successful pioneer to the establishment of a weekly paper to be issued under official authority. The present undertaking, as a preparatory work, is however not without sanction; it will receive the cordial approbation of Ministers and Members of our Church, who will doubtless use their influence to procure for it a due share of public patronage.

The Wesleyan will be carefully guarded against what may be called *sectarianism*. Whilst, as a matter of course, it will be a denominational organ, and, as such, give a prominence to Wesleyan views on doctrines and Church polity, or to what some may designate, Wesleyan peculiarities, it will, at the same time, bear a friendly aspect towards sister, evangelical churches, and lend its aid to promote charity among the followers of Christ. Against essential or fundamental errors, it will be found arrayed in uncompromising hostility; but even this contest it will endeavour to conduct in a spirit accordant with the recognized principles of the Christian law.

Articles on all subjects which, in our estimation, shall appear calculated to profit, and "please" our readers "for their good to edification," will be introduced into its columns as opportunity and circumstances may permit.

A carefully arranged synopsis of *The News of the day* will be given; but all mere party politics will be entirely excluded.

We shall, however, regard it, perfectly within our proper jurisdiction, as religious Journalists, calmly, and dispassionately, yet energetically, to discuss subjects, in which great and important principles are involved, affecting the intellectual, moral, and religious well-being of the Provincial population; and gathering instruction from the experience of the past, and of the present, shall use our strenuous endeavours to promote, as far as in us lies, the best interests of the people. On every subject affecting these interests, we shall keep a watchful eye, and fail not, as principles develop themselves, and the march of time advances, to record the convictions of our own mind, the mature and deliberate judgments to which religious principles, the decisions of God's word, and the utmost impartiality, may assist us to arrive.

Our unwearying effort will be directed to furnish our patrons with a sheet, which they may safely introduce into their family circles, with the prospect of gratifying their literary taste, promoting their piety, increasing their information, and enlarging their knowledge of men and things. The richly laden fields of science, literature, and religion lie before us; and, in imitation of the industrious bee, which collects honey from every flower, we shall strive to present as dainty a dish as we can to suit the taste of every well disciplined and religious mind.

## AGGRESSIVE CHARACTER OF METHODISM.

WESLEYAN Methodism has ever been aggressive. It must be so from its very nature. But let us not be misunderstood. We do not mean that it is hostile to other bodies of evangelical Christians. These may entertain and exhibit opinions with which it does not agree, and which it may deem proper on suitable occasions to question and refute. But with all that is truly evangelical in the different Protestant denominations it is found in perfect accordancy. So far from waging war with any thing really Christian or scriptural, in doctrine, experience, or practice, in these various communities, it is at all times prepared to support them in their maintenance. Its hostility—if we must use the term—is simply against all that is in opposition to what it conceives to be "the truth as it is in Jesus."

We use the term "aggressive" not in an offensive sense. Let us explain. Methodism commenced its career by calling sinners to repentance and to faith in Christ. Its inroads or encroachments, were designed to be made into the dark and sinful territories of Satan, in order to rescue those who had been taken captive by him at his will, and to recover them to the gracious dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for them to redeem them from all iniquity. From the first moment of its putting forth its energies to the present, this object it has kept steadily in view; and success to a large extent has been by the divine blessing crowned its god-like and self-denying efforts. Thousands, and hundreds of thousands of precious souls, it has been instrumental in winning to Christ; many of whom are now in heaven, with saints of olden times, "inheriting the promises;" whilst a noble army is still found under its banners, waging bloodless war against the powers of darkness, and marching to the New Jerusalem above.

The mission of Methodism to our world has not yet been accomplished. A widespread course it has yet to run, ere it can relax its energies; many a hard and toilsome battle to fight in the name of the Lord of

Hosts, ere it can lay down its arms of celestial imper. The world is yet comparatively unsubdued to the cross of Calvary. "The sheep for whom the shepherd died," still wander on the mountains of sin and in the dark valleys of Satan's domains. With pitying eye it beholds these wanderers; with compassionate heart, feels for the danger of these willingly deluded victims; and, putting on "bowels of mercies," it addresses itself at this moment with renewed zeal, to arrest them in their destructive course, and turn their heedless feet to the sheltering fold of the Redeemer. Nor can it, nor will it cease, under the gracious auspices of benignant heaven, to ply with assiduity its multiform and well-adapted instrumentalities, in this "work of faith, and labour of love," whilst the souls of men are perishing for lack of knowledge, and are thronging the way of eternal ruin. This is said not in the spirit of self-confidence or vain-glory, but under a deep conviction that "necessity is laid" upon it to fulfil its appointed and designed course of duty. Whilst so much remains to be done, in the work of converting the world unto God, in the use of the appointed means, cessation or relaxation of effort on its part, would be aggravated and culpable recreancy to the cause of Christ, to the best interests of humanity, and to all its own most solemn pledges. In the sense now explained, aggressiveness must be its watch-word, its *primus mobile*, its principle of action. Never may this glory depart; rather may the impression of obligation to "work while it is day" be deepened and become more and more influential, until all that it has done in this high behalf, shall, compared with its future triumphs, be as "the light of the moon to the light of the sun," or, "the light of the sun to the light of seven days;" or, to change the figure, as the first strokes of the hammer in preparing the foundation to the completed work of the lofty superstructure. The ministers and lay members of the Wesleyan Church, found as they are in almost all parts of the wide world, have only to consecrate themselves renewedly and unreservedly to God, and His sacred cause, and to seek and obtain enlarged measures of "the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ," to make their influence for good tell with accumulated energy and effect, on the moral and spiritual well-being of vast masses of the race. May the consecration be made—may the supply be received—may prosperity be given! "God be merciful to us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us. Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."—Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2. "Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea the work of our hands establish thou it."—Ps. xc. 16, 17.

[From our Correspondent at Sackville, N. B.]

MY DEAR BROTHER—

Your letter of a recent date informing me that arrangements have been made to publish a short series of Wesleyan papers, preparatory to the establishment of a regular periodical of Connexional Authority, has afforded me a high degree of gratification.

The Press is properly regarded as a moral lever of the most powerful order. By its means, men's minds are moved in a direction either right or wrong, as the tendency of the force applied may be right or wrong. It is the duty of all who would largely benefit the world to seize it, and to work it with the most liberal expenditure of rightly di-

rected force. The opinion which has prevailed so generally throughout the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Districts for several years, that we ought to have a weekly religious paper of decidedly Wesleyan character, for circulation in these Colonies, has been deepening in some minds into the conviction that our Church is imperatively required by Providence to make provision for the speedy establishment and efficient management of such a Periodical; and that this providential requirement may not long be disregarded without serious Church delinquency and consequent loss. And this conviction has been confirmed by the last Conference Address, in which we find it solemnly written as the deliberate judgment of our Fathers and Brethren in the Parent land that "one important means of usefulness has not been sufficiently cared for among us—the extension of the Gospel by means of the Press." And if this is true in enlightened, thickly-populated England, where one or more of our Preachers, either travelling or local, is found preaching each Sabbath in almost every hamlet in the land; where we have the long-established and nobly-worked Connexional Book-room, with its exhaustless stores of every description of religious Books, Tracts and Periodicals—whence issue monthly supplies to the almost innumerable but well organized agencies established throughout the length and breadth of the Country,—where we have our Magazine, Youth's Instructor, Cottager's Friend, Child's Magazine, Monthly Missy, Notices, and Quarterly papers, &c., &c., all distributed with unrivalled punctuality in every Society and Congregation,—if there it is still true that "the extension of the Gospel by means of the Press has not been sufficiently cared for amongst" Methodists—what shall be said of the employment of "this means of usefulness" in these sparsely populated Provinces, where our Members and Friends are scattered so far and wide in the wilderness that they can only occasionally be instructed and edified by attendance upon the living ministry, and where comparatively nothing has been done "for the extension of the Gospel by means of the Press?" Would that every Wesleyan would seriously consider the question; and surely we should all then agree that "this means of usefulness has not been sufficiently cared for among us;" and would be prepared to respond most heartily to your watchword "forward" in the only way in which we can employ the agency of the Press with much efficiency. A holy emulation, too, should stir us to promptitude in this work,—other Denominations are wisely employing this agency confidently and constantly in the advocacy of their own interests and peculiarities; and we must not longer neglect to do so and hope to retain our relative standing as a Church.

But are we able,—can we prudently go "forward" with the work? Can we obtain a circulation sufficiently extensive for such a publication to save it from financial embarrassment? I have attempted to count the cost, and I believe we are abundantly able. Let the work be undertaken with spirit,—give us such a paper as we should have,—one respectably "got up" and well furnished with local, as well as general information, and it will be sustained.

There are between forty and fifty preachers—every one of whom should be an agent for such a paper, and a regular contributor for its columns. Such a set of contributors, would render the publication locally interesting everywhere throughout the Districts; and such a set of agents, if engaged and interested in the work, might secure its circu-