

THE
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AND
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ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Conductors of the PANOPLIST and MISSIONARY MAGAZINE are desirous, that this annual address should not degenerate into repetition or formality. For the principles by which our work is to be regulated, and the prominent designs which we wish to see accomplished, our readers are referred to our preceding addresses of this kind; and particularly to that which opened our last volume. The varying circumstances of the times will always make it necessary, however, to state, at the commencement of each volume, some of the principal objects which will claim our attention.

All persons who have taken an interest in periodical publications, and especially all editors and their assistants, must have perceived the extreme difficulty of conducting a work of this kind, in such a manner as to suit the various tastes of men, who have received different educations, been engaged in different pursuits, and are accustomed to different habits of thinking, feeling, and acting. It is curious to observe the discordant objections which have been confidently urged against the ablest and best foreign Magazines. The same causes operate in this country, as in every other, to produce the same diversity of wishes and expectations. It is with reason, therefore, that we call upon the candor of our readers to make such allowances for what they would denominate minor defects, as will permit them to derive instruction and profit from those parts of our work which they entirely approve. We cannot but think that, with respect to the management of a religious Magazine, there are several points of agreement, in which all the friends of Christianity may cordially unite. Religious intelligence, for instance, embracing the most remarkable events which relate to the prosperity of the kingdom of Christ, must be pleasing to all who have the interests of this kingdom at heart. The same may be said of all that portion of matter which exhibits, in a manner generally intelligible, any of the great truths of the Gospel; which exemplifies and enforces the duties of charity and beneficence; and which, in short, tends to make men better members of families, of society, and of the Church on earth, and to prepare them for heaven. Admitting that a particular discussion may be too learned for some, and not learned enough for others; that some pieces may be too long and others too short; and that a scrutinizing eye may discover ever so many cases of possible improvement; still, if the tendency of a work is salutary on the whole; if the work is free from radical error, and productive of

ing letter from the secretary of the Holborn Sunday School, [Eng.] is a striking instance.

March 5, 1810.

"INCLOSED I send you a check, value 21/ 10s. [about \$95] being the amount of voluntary contributions of the teachers and children of the Holborn Sunday school for the year ending February, 1810, which you will have the goodness to pay in, for the use of the British and Foreign Bible Society. With regard to the mode of collecting, it is continued as stated formerly. Each teacher contributes one penny per week, and those children, who wish it, give one half-penny per week, and we have the gratification to see several of the old scholars, who have been honorably dismissed the school, cheerfully petitioning to add their little mite weekly, to the common stock. May the Divine Author of the Bible continue to succeed the efforts of your truly honorable society, till all the inhabitants of the globe shall possess the precious word of God, and by the influence of the Holy Spirit, savingly understand it!"

Extract of a letter from the Rev. John H. Rice, sent as a missionary to the blacks in Charlotte County, Virginia, by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. This letter is addressed to the chairman of the standing committee of missions, and dated May 1, 1811.

"DEAR SIR,

Until very lately I expected to deliver this report to you in person, instead of sending it to you by post. But it has seemed good to Providence to disappoint this expectation. Could I have foreseen what has happened, the report should have been sent forward at a more early period.

During the year past I have endeavored, according to my abilities, to execute the trust reposed in me. One fourth of my time has been given to my black congregation. Lecturing on select passages of Scripture seems to be a mode of instruction, better calculated for people in that state of *no-improvement* in which

the blacks are, than preaching. I have accordingly adopted that mode, not, however, to the dereliction of the other: and I hope that it has not been without advantage to the people. The conduct of the blacks, during the last year, has been regular and orderly, submissive to discipline, and in many respects worthy of high commendation. In a word, my labors among them have afforded me more satisfaction, than during any similar period of my missionary service. It has been the pleasure of Heaven to remove one of this people from the world. She died the death of the righteous, and her last end was peace; it was more: she died in all the triumph of Christian joy. Not long after her death, a son of her's died also: there was something a little remarkable in this boy. He was about sixteen years of age. Four or five years ago, when he could not have been older than eleven, he applied for admission to the communion of the Lord's Supper. He was so young, and had so little knowledge, that he was advised to wait until he should be better instructed. His conduct ever after that period was remarkably grave and serious. His obedient and humble disposition was noticed by all who knew him. He however was not satisfied of the propriety of making a second application for the privilege of communion, before he was taken with a malignant fever which proved mortal. His exercises, during the greater part of his sickness, were in a high degree comfortable, and at the last his joy was too big for utterance: his conversation produced a very considerable effect on the by-standers. He stated that he had from his earliest youth determined to "serve the Lord," and he had then no doubt but that he should be happy hereafter. He earnestly exhorted all to engage in religion immediately; and warned them that they must die young. He told them of the happiness of religion, and attempted to exhibit to them the love of the blessed Savior. I think there is reason to hope that he is now, in better strains than are heard upon earth, singing the praises of Him who loved us, and gave himself for us."