

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MAGAZINE:

As a means of providing instruction for the Rising Generation,

“And the child Samuel grew before the Lord. 1 Sam. ii. 21.

THAT Children ought to be paid due attention to, testimony and experience, inform us; and the same thing is in various places commanded by Almighty God; we therefore willingly insert the following letter. Whether our respected brother has or has not bit upon the proper opening of Divine Providence is not for us to say; neither can we at present, fully determine whether, at this time the Lord does or does not require such a service at the hands of the Primitive Methodist Connexion. But, as the matter is weighty, we earnestly request all our readers to make it a matter of daily prayer; and also carefully to weigh over every part of our brother’s letter. It is as follows:—
Sunderland, Nov. 22, 1823.

Dear Brethren,

I have been thinking for some time, that there is great need in our connexion of some periodical work being circulated for the use and instruction of the dear children of our numerous members, as well as the offspring of others who favour our Zion. I think if a small and cheap MAGAZINE at about three-halfpence per month, could find its way among the children of our numerous friends, it would be productive of infinite benefit to their young minds, and would probably be the means of vastly increasing, (in piety, at least) our growing connexion (with respect to its members, in process of time. No doubt, if due attention was paid to scripture and experimental observations, but a plentitude of excellent matter could be found, which (when properly prepared and arranged) would wonderfully tend to enlighten, instruct, and edify the young minds. What excellent things the Holy Ghost sets forth in scripture, concerning young saints. If we were maturely to consider what the Spirit of God tells of the deep and early piety of young Samuel, Josiah, Jeremiah, St. John, Timothy, and the dear children mentioned in Matt. xxi. 15, who cried, “Hosannah to the Son of David,” I think much might be wrote from the characters of these young babes, that, no doubt, would afford religious instruction to many of the rising posterity of the present generation. Now this little work might be so divided into lessons or portions, as to suit both Sunday Schools and other times of reading, also the matter to be plain and simple, yet rich and savoury, so as to suit the capacity of youth. It could also be called, “THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST JUVENILE MAGAZINE,” or, The Youth’s Spiritual Looking Glass; or it might have some other plain, but expressive title. I have hinted the propriety of such a means being adopted, for the edification of youth, to a brother whom I greatly esteem in the Lord, also to many other respected friends; and I have spoke to none upon the subject but what seemed highly to favour my idea with their approbation. I therefore lay my thoughts before you as men who have the matter to determine. If it meets your approbation, and the point can be gained, and good done, my end will at once be answered, and Him who graciously says, “Suffer little children to come unto me,” shall receive all the glory. With humble respect, I remain your servant in the gospel,
N. WEST

P.S. Since I have been at High Downs, in this circuit, I am more than ever confirmed in my opinion that a periodical work for the Instruction of Youth is needed in our connexion. At the above place there are a great number of pious boys in our society, one of whom has been a steady member for more than a year, and is only just turned eight years old! I have mentioned my idea on this subject to some of the parents of pious children, who highly approve of it. N.W.