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MINUTES

OF SOME LATE

CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN THE

Rev. Messrs. *W E S L E Y*,

A N D O T H E R S.

B R I S T O L :

Printed by BULGIN and ROSSER, No. 15,
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M.DCC.LXXXVI.



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MINUTES, &c.

BRISTOL, July 25, 1786.

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QUEST. 1. **W**HAT Preachers are *admitted*
this Year ?

ANSW. In *Great-Britain*: Alexander Suter, Joseph Jerom, James Thom, William Hoskins. In *Ireland*, William Hammet, James M'Donald. In *America*, Isaac Smith, John Smith, Elijah Ellis, John Robertson, Thomas Jackson, Henry Jones, William Jeffop, James Riggin, Willson Lee, Thoware, John Fidler.

Q. 2. Who remain on trial ?

A. In *Great-Britain*, Thomas Bartholomew, Edward Burbeck, John Ogylvie, William Palmer, Charles Kyte, Benjamin Pearse, Timothy Crowther, Jonathan Crowther, John Muckarsy, William Butterfield, Richard Cornish, William Holmes, James Ridell, Peter Walker, Charles Bland, Robert Gamble, John Smith, Alexander Kilham, William Fife, John Ramshaw, William Hunter, Junr. William Blagborne, Henry Robbins. In *Ireland*, John Dinnen, Thomas Verner. In *America*, M. Whitaker, H. Bingham, S. Johnson, Thomas Williamson, J. Hartley, H. Hull, William Steens, J. Maston, E. Cooper, L. Ross, Robert Sparks, J. Bruff, Robert Ayres, G. Thompson, J. Paup, J. M'Clafkey, Robert Cann, S. Dicken, S. Pyle.

Q. 3.

Q. 3. Who are *admitted on trial* ?

A. In *Great-Britain*, James Gore, John Reynolds, Richard Phillips, Wm. Bramwell, James Byrom, John Townsend, Geo. Baldwin, Theoph. Lefley, Tho. Jones, James Evans, William Stephens, Thomas Roberts, William Heath, Thomas Smith, William Thoresby, John Robotham, James Williams, George Highfield, John Barret, John Tregortha, John Atkins, John Beaumont, Thomas Gill, Jonathan Edmonson, Duncan Kay, Richard Thorfeby, Abraham Moseley, John De Queataville, Michael Griffiths. In *Ireland*, Samuel Bates, Tho. Owens, David Gordon, Francis Frazier, Thomas Seward, John Harper, John Gillis, Samuel Moorhead, John Grace, William Cowen. In *America*, Sihon Smith, J. Maion, R. Johnson Miller, M. Moore, Charles Hardy, Daniel Afbury, Caleb Maxcy, John Steward, H. Vanover, T. Burns, Micaiah Tracy, Elijah Lumsdon, Newman Spain, J. Lurton, William Hudfon, John Jarrell, William Hervey, Benjamin Ogdon, J. Simmons, Moses Hurley, J. Merrick, S. Talbot, L. Matthews, M. Lard.

Q. 4. Who *desist* from travelling ?

A. In *Great-Britain*, Philip Hardcastle, William Adamson.--John Ingham, William Church, Michael Moorhouse. In *Ireland*,--George Dice, Thomas Halliday. In *America*, James Hinton, Edward Dromgoole, William Glendenning, William Ringold.

Q. 5. Who has *died* this year ?

A. John Fletcher, a Pattern of all holiness, scarce to be paralleled in a century ; and Jn. Peacock, young in years, but old in grace ; a pattern of all holiness, full of faith and love, and zeal for God.

Q. 6. Are there any objections to any of our Preachers ?

A. They were examined one by one.

Q. 7. How are the preachers *stationed* this year?

A. As follows :

John Broadbent travels with Mr. Wesley.

1. *London*, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, James Creighton, Sam. Bradburn, Benjamin Rhodes, Jeremiah Brettell :—Tho. Rankin, John Atlay, and George Whitfield, supernumeraries.
2. *Suffex*, William Boothby, John Reynolds, James Byron.
3. *Kent*, George Shadford, Tho. Wride, William Bramwell, James Gore.
4. *Colchester*, Joseph Algar, Charles Bland.
5. *Norwich*, Jaf. Robinlon, R. Empringham, Tho. Shaw, Abraham Moseley, Robert Gamble.
6. *Lynn*, William Palmer, John Muckarfe, John Gualtier.
7. *Bedford*, Barnabas Thomas, Wm. Horner.
8. *Northampton*, Joseph Pefcod, Michael Griffiths.
9. *Oxfordshire*, Joseph Harper, Samuel Edwards, John Robotham.
10. *Glocestershire*, James Hall, Robert Hopkins, William Stephens.
11. *Sarum*, Wm. Afhman, Wm. Butterfield, Charles Kyte.
12. *Bradford*, John Mafon, Simon Day, Wm. Hoskins, John King.
13. *Bristol*, John Valton, Christopher Watkins, John Pritchard, Thomas Tennant.
14. *Taunton*, George Wadsworth, John Pook.
15. *Tiverton*, Joseph Jerom, Peter Walker.
16. *Plymouth*, William Myles, Charles Bond, Timothy Crowther.
17. *St. Austle*,

17. *St. Asfile*, John Moon, John Cricket,
John Townsend.
18. *Redruth*, Francis Wrigley, Jonathan Cuf-
sens, Joseph Sutcliffe.
19. *St. Ives*, George Button, Richard Cor-
nith, Theophilus Lessey.
20. *Pembroke*, Joseph Cole, John Tregortha,
James Evans.
21. *Glamorgansh.* William Holmes, George Bald-
win.
22. *Brecon*, William Saunders, Tho. Jones.
23. *Birmingham*, Andrew Blair, John Murlin,
Duncan Wright:-- John Bret-
tel, supernumerary.
24. *Borstem*, Thomas Warwick, Tho. Corbet.
25. *Macclesfield*, George Story, Wm. Thoresby.
26. *Manchester*, William Thompson, William
Eels, Thomas Smith.
27. *Stockport*, Robert Roberts, Duncan Kay.
28. *Chester*, Richard Rodda, Thomas Brisco,
John Beaumont.
29. *Liverpool*, Charles Boon, Christ. Hopper,
James Williams.
30. *Bolton*, Jeremiah Robertshaw, Thomas
Lee.
31. *Coln*, Edward Jackson, Samuel Bar-
desley, James Ridel.
32. *Leicester*, John Easton, Robert Hayward,
Thomas Gill.
33. *Nottingham*, Jonathan Hern, James Bogie,
William Heath.
34. *Derby*, Thomas Carlill, Robert Scot.
35. *Sheffield*, Alexander Mather, George
Gibbon, Thomas Tatterhall.
36. *Grimby*, Launcelot Harrison, James Ray.
37. *Horncastle*, Thomas Longley, John Barret,
Richard Thoresby.
38. *Gainsborough*.

38. *Gainsborough*, William Dufton, George Mowat, Thomas Ellis, Alexander Kilham.
39. *Epworth*, James Watfon, John Fenwick, Jonathan Edmondson.
40. *Leeds*, Thomas Taylor, John Shaw, George Snowden.
41. *Birstal*, John Goodwin, John Wittam.
42. *Dewsbury*, Parfon Greenwood, Jonathan Parkin.
43. *Huddersfield*, John Booth, John Crosby.
44. *Hallifax*, John Allen, Alexander Suter.
45. *Bradforth*, William Collins, Samuel Hodgson :—Thomas Johnson, supernumerary.
46. *Kighley*, Joseph Bradford, John Bealand.
47. *Whitehaven*, John Peacock, James Christie.
48. *Isle of Man*, John Crook, John Oglyvie, Jonathan Crowther, John Ramsshaw.
49. *York*, Thomas Rutherford, Samuel Botts, George Highfield.
50. *Pocklington*, Robert Swan, George Holder.
51. *Hull*, Joseph Benson, John Barber.
52. *Scarborough*, Peter Mill, Robert Costerdine, William Fish.
53. *Whitby*, Isaac Brown, Thomas Dixon.
54. *Thirsk*, William Simpson, William Hunter, Junr, Henry Robbins.
55. *Yarm*, Joseph Thompson, Tho. Broadbent.
56. *The Dales*, James Thom, John Atkins, J. Smith.
57. *Sunderland*, James Wood, Wm. Thom.
58. *Newcastle*, Andrew Inglis, Joseph Saunderson, William Percival.
59. *Berwick*,

59. *Berwick*, William Hunter, Senr. Zechariah Udall, Matthew Lum.
60. *Edinburgh*, John Pawson, Charles Atmore.
61. *Ayr*, Duncan M'Allum.
62. *Dundee*, Thomas Hanby, Robert Johnson, William Blagborne.
63. *Aberdeen*, Joseph Taylor, Richard Watkinson.
64. *Inverness*, Joshua Kighley, Thomas Bartholomew, Edward Burbeck.
65. *Jersey*, Rob. Carr Brackenbury, Adam Clark.
66. *Guernsey*, John De Queataville.
67. *Dublin*, James Rogers, Henry Moore.
68. *Waterford*, George Brown, David Gordon.
69. *Cork*, Jonath. Brown, Matthias Joyce, John Dinnen.
70. *Limerick*, Daniel Jackson, Thomas Seaward.
71. *Castlebar*, Nehemiah Price, Wm. M'Connock.
72. *Athlone*, Lawrence Kane, John Miller, John Mealy, Supernumerary.
73. *Longford*, Thomas Davis, James M' Donald, John Bredin, Invalid.
74. *Sligo*, James Jordan. Francis Frazier.
75. *Ballyconnel*, Joseph Armstrong, James Renick, Thomas Owens.
76. *Clones*, William Green, Thomas Hetherington, John Harper.
77. *Iniskillen*, Samuel Mitchell, Thomas Verner, John Gillis.
78. *Ballyshannon*, Thomas Barbor, Rich. Condy.
79. *Omagh*, John Price, Samuel Moorhead.
80. *Charlemount*, Hugh Moor, Gustavus Armstrong.
81. *Newry*, John Kerr, Robert Bridge.
82. *Londonderry*, John Leech, Thomas Roberts.

- 83. *Coleraine*, Walter Griffiths, Wm. West,
Wm. Cowen.
- 84. *Belfast*, Robert Armstrong, John Howe,
John Grace.
- 85. *Lisburn*, Robert Lindfay, Samuel Bates,
Benjamin Pearse.

A M E R I C A.

Superintendents, Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury.

ELDERS.

- Georgia, Tho. Humphreys, J. }
Major. } J. Foster.
- Broad River, S. Johnson. }
Charleston J. Smith. } Hen. Willis.
- Santee, Richard Swift, }
Pee Dee, J. Mafton, H. Hull. } Bev. Allen.
- Salisbury, Tho. Williamfon, H. }
Bingham, }
Yeadkin, R. J. Miller, J. Mafon } Reub. Ellis.
- Holftein, M. Whitaker, M. }
Moor. }
- Guildford, J. Baldwin, }
Halifax, E. Morris, C. Hardy, } J. O'Kelley.
- Mecklenburg, J. Easter, H. Jones. }
New-Hope, W. Partridge, }
Tar River, T. Anderfon, M. Tra- }
cey, } Rich. Ivey.
- Roan-Oak, T. Bowen, W. Steens, }
Cafwell, S. Smith. }
- Bertie, T. Jackfon, J. Free- }
man, }
- Camden and } J. Robertfon, John } Phil. Bruce.
Banks, } Steward, }
- Portfmouth, T. Burns. }

Brunswick.

Brunswick,	P. Cox, J. Gibbons,	} ELDERS.
	H. Meritt,	
Suffex,	S. Pyle, L. Matthews,	} F. Poythres.
Amelia,	E. Ellis, D. Asbury.	
Williamsfb.	Levin Rofs,	} Tho. Chew.
Orange,	William Dameron, E.	
	Lumfson,	
Bedford,	W. Cannan, H. Vanover, N. Spain,	
Hanover,	Ananias Hudson.	} Enoch
Alleghany,	G. Thompson, A. Edwards, M. Lard,	
Redstone,	J. Smith, R. Ayres, S. Dickens.	} Mattfon
Westmoreland	L. Green, J. Paup,	} Nelson Reed
Fairfax,	R. Owens, J. Fidler,	
Berkeley,	W. Waters, W. Hervey.	
Kent,	J. Lee, S. Talbot,	} R. Whatcoat
Talbot,	J. White, W. Lee,	
Dover,	Ira Ellis, I. Moore.	} J. Haggerty
Caroline,	W. Jeffop, M. Hurley,	
	J. Jarrell,	} Tho. Foster
Dorfet,	S. Dudley, J. Everitt.	
Somerset,	J. Riffin, J. Merrick,	} Tho. Foster
Annameffex,	W. Thomas,	
Northampton,	T. Curtis.	} Caleb Boyer
Philadelphia,	H. Ogburn, P. Moriarty,	
Little York,	} Mathew Greentree.	} T. Vafey
Juniata,		
Trenton,	R. Sparks, R. Can,	} T. Vafey
West Jerfey,	J. Brush, J. Simmons,	
	J. Lurton.	

East-Jerfey,

East Jersey,	J. M ^c Clasky, E. Cooper,	} ELDERS.
Newark,	Robert Cloud,	
New-York,	J. Dickens,	} J. Tunnell
Long-Island,	Thomas Ware.	
Baltimore,	W. Hickson, A. Cloud	} Wm. Gill
Frederick,	M. Ellis, J. Cromwell,	
Calvert,	Jonathan Forrest.	
Kentucky,	B. Ogdon.	} James Haw
Newbern,		} Le Roy Cole
New-River,	J. Hartley, C. Maxcy.	
Wilmington,	.	
Antigua,		} J. Baxter
		} Wm. Warrenner
Nova Scotia,	W. Black, J. Mann.	} F. Garretson
		} J. Cromwell
Newfoundland	John M ^c Geary.	} John Clark
		} W. Hammet

Q 7. How many Wives are to be provided for ?

A. Seventy-five.

Q. How many of these are to be provided for by the Circuits.

A. Fifty-seven : namely,

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 London, | S. Brettell, Boothby |
| 2 Gloucestershire, | S. Hall |
| 3 Bradford, | S. Green |
| 4 Bristol, | S. Hopkins 6l: Dixon 6l:
Day, Algar |
| 5 Devon and Taunton, | S. Poole |
| 6 Plymouth, | S: Myles |
| 7 St. Auffle, | S: Moon, 6l: |
| 8 Redruth, | S: Wride |
| 9 St. Ives, | S. Shaw (Thomas) |
| 10. Birmingham, | S. Blair, Wright |
| 11 Borflem, | S. Warwick |
| 12 Macclesfield, | S. Story |
| 13 Stockport | S. Roberts |
| | 14. Manchester, |

14 Manchester,	S. Cuffens, Corbet
15 Chester,	S. Rodda
16 Liverpool,	S. Boon, Hopper
17 Bolton,	S. Robertshaw
18 Coln,	S. Lee, Harper
19 Leicefter,	S. Easton
20 Nottingham,	S. Hern,
21 Sheffield,	S. Mather, Gibbon, Brisco
22 Grimsby,	S. Butterfield,
23 Gainfborough,	S. Ellis, Mowat
24 Epworth,	S. Longley
25 Leeds,	S. Taylor, Shaw, Snowden
26 Birstal,	S. Goodwin
27 Dewsbury,	S. Greenwood
28 Huddersfield,	S. Booth
29 Bradforth,	S. Collins
30 Hallifax,	S. Crosby
31 Kighley,	S. Bradford
32 York,	S. Rutherford
33 Hull,	S. Swan
34 Scarborough,	S. Mill
35 Yarm,	S. Thompson (Jof.)
36 The Dales,	S. Watfon
37 Sunderland,	S. Wood, Thom
38 Newcastle,	S. Inglis
39 Ireland,	S. Jackson, Price, Brown (Geo.) Joyce, Dinnen

Q. 11. How are the other eighteen to be provided for, namely: S. Williams, Scott, Beanland, Peacock, Crook, Costerdine, Brown (Isaac) Simpson, Percival, Hunter, Senr. Watkinson, M'Allum, Atkins, Moon Gl. Moore, Kane, Rennick, West, Condy.

A. Partly out of the Yearly Collection, and partly out of the Preachers' Fund.

N. B. The Money for them all, except the five last, will be lodged in the Hands of Mr. Atlay: the Money

Money for the five last, in the hands of Mr. James Rogers.

Q. 11. What Numbers are in the Societies?

A. As follows :

1 London	2517	35 Grimby	480
2 Suffex	217	36 Horncastle	582
3 Kent	400	37 Gainsborough	745
4 Colchester	184	38 Epworth	644
5 Norwich	600	39 Leeds	2384
6 Lynn	237	40 Birftal	1043
7 Bedford	264	41 Dewsbury	925
8 Northampton	350	42 Huddersfield	800
9 Oxfordshire	500	43 Halifax	1000
10 Gloucefter	647	44 Bradford	1146
11 Sarum	430	45 Kighley	1100
12 Bradford	1193	46 Whitehaven	227
13 Briftol	1600	47 Ile of Man	2433
14 Taunton	180	48 York	890
15 Devon	442	49 Hull	900
16 Plymouth	483	50 Scarborough	700
17 St. Auftle	816	51 Whitby	536
18 Redruth	1404	52 Thirsk	667
19 St. Ives	1292	53 Yarm	512
20 Pembroke	186	54 The Dales	805
21 Glamorgan	209	55 Sunderland	1076
22 Brecon	100	56 Newcastle	1063
23 Birmingham	1010	57 Berwick	80
24 Borslem	780	58 Edinburgh	219
25 Macclesfield	922	59 Dundee	134
26 Manchester	2460	60 Aberdeen	324
27 Chefter	700	61 Jerfey	136
28 Liverpool	635	62 Guernfey	42
29 Bolton	650	63 Dublin	900
30 Coln	1500	64 Waterford	300
31 Leicefter	674	65 Cork	800
32 Nottingham	700	66 Limerick	266
33 Derby	366	67 Cattlebar	303
34 Sheffield	1550	68 Athlone	600

B

69 Sligo

69 Sligo	391	75 Lifford	950
70 Ballyconnell	636	76 Londonderry	700
71 Clones	929	77 Belfast	430
73 Inniskillen	1400	78 Lisburn	550
74 Charlemount	1200		
Total in Europe,			58150

A M E R I C A.

Portsmouth,	Whites	330
	Blacks	26
Suffex,	Whites	416
	Blacks	72
Brunswick,	Whites	305
	Blacks	59
Amelia,	Whites	382
	Blacks	30
Mecklenburgh	Whites	392
	Blacks	37
Bedford,	Whites	524
	Blacks	16
Orange,	Whites	374
	Blacks	75
Williamsburgh	Whites	167
	Blacks	11
Alleghany,	Whites	350
	Blacks	18
Berkeley,	Whites	140
	Blacks	26
Redstone,		523
Fairfax,		260
Lancaster,		174
Frederick,	Whites	390
	Blacks	32
Calvert,	Whites	295
	Blacks	316
Baltimore,	Whites	655
	Blacks	111
Little York,		136

Kent,

Kent,		1018
Talbot,	Whites	632
	Blacks	832
Dorset,		719
Somerlet,		220
Annameffex,	Whites	317
	Blacks	33
Northampton,	Whites	151
	Blacks	9
Caroline,	Whites	657
	Blacks	243
Dover,	Whites	690
	Blacks	158
Philadelphia,		498
Georgia,		78
Charleston,	Whites	35
	Blacks	23
Santee,		75
Pee-Dee,	Whites	285
	Blacks	10
Broad River,		200
Salisbury,	Whites	327
	Blacks	10
Yadkin,	Whites	426
	Blacks	11
Holstein,		250
Guilford,	Whites	400
	Blacks	10
Halifax,	Whites	324
	Blacks	14
Newhope,	Whites	192
	Blacks	3
Tar River,	Whites	607
	Blacks	42
New River,	Whites	500
	Blacks	72
Roan Oak,		474
Cafwell,		153

Bertie,	Whites	405
	Blacks	58
Camden and Banks,		257
West Jerfey		492
Trenton,		352
East Jerfey,		365
New-York,	Whites	178
	Blacks	25
Long-Island,	Whites	146
	Blacks	8
Newark,		50
Nova Scotia,		510
Newfoundland,		100
Antigua,	Whites	10
	Blacks	1559
Total in America,		21450
Total in Europe,		58150

Total in Europe and America, 79600

Q. 12. What is the Kingwood Collection ?

A. 68*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

Q. 13. What Children are admitted this Year ?

A. ——— Morgan, Samuel Barry, Lawrence Kane.

Q. 14. What can we allow the Daughters of the Preachers ?

A. Hannah Roberts, 6*l.* the second year. Ann Watkinson, 6*l.* the second Year.

Q. 15. What is contributed to the Preachers' Fund ?

A. 365*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

Q. 16. What is allowed out of it ?

A. Thomas Westell,	£ 30	0
William Whitacre,	20	0
John Bredin,	12	0
Matthew Lowes,	5	5
Thomas Hanson,	12	0

John

(17)

John Furze,	£ 12	0
Henry Foster,	12	0
John Watson, Junr.	12	0
John Mealy,	12	0
Ann Morgan,	24	0
Lucy Burke,	12	0
Mary Pennington,	20	0
Elizabeth Shorter,	10	0
Catherine Garnet,	12	0
Elizabeth Dillon,	5	0
Tabitha Norris,	5	0
Margaret Payne,	12	0
Sarah Barry,	24	0
Sarah Naylor,	10	0
Elizabeth Oldham,	12	0
Sarah Hofmer,	10	0
Sarah Mitchell,	24	0

In all, £ 307 5

Q. 17. What is contributed for the yearly Expences?

A. 917l. 13s. 8d.

Q. 18. How was it expended?

A. Last Year's Contingencies,	£	167	5	6
Present Year's Contingencies,	100	0	0	
Law,	84	8	0	
Sending out Preachers in Great-				
Britain and Ireland,	25	15	0	
Preachers' Necessities,	540	5	2	

In all, £ 917 13 8

Q. 10. What Houses are to be built this Year?

Q. 20. Does the *General Deed* require any Alteration in the Mode of settling our Preaching-Houfes ?

A. None, except the Infertion of the Phrafe, "The Conference of the People called Methodists, as established by a Deed-Poll of the said J. Wesley, under his Hand and Seal, bearing Date the 28th Day of February, in the Year 1784, and enrolled in his Majesty's High Court of Chancery, and no others," instead of the Phrafe, "The Conference of the People called Methodists, in London, Bristol, or Leeds, and no others."

Q. 21. Is there any further Direction to be given, to secure the proper Settlement of our Preaching-Houfes ?

A. Let no Assistant make, or suffer to be made, in his respective Circuit, a Collection for any Preaching-Houfe, till every Step be previously taken to secure it on the Conference-Plan, by a Trust-Deed, a Bond, or sufficient Articles of Agreement.

Q. 22. Directions are given in the Minutes concerning the Windows, &c. of Preaching-Houfes : Have those Directions been observed ?

A. In some Places they have ; in others, not at all, particularly with regard to the Windows, Doors, Pews, and the dividing of the Men from the Women.

Q. 23. Shall we insist on the Observance of these Directions for the Time to come, or no ?

A. We will permit none to collect for any future Building, unless Security be first given to observe the Rules laid down in the large Minutes.

Q. 24. When and where is the next Conference to be held ?

A. At Manchester, on the last Tuesday in next July. And all succeeding Conferences are to be held in the following Order, viz.—1st. in London ; 2dly, in Leeds ; 3dly, in Bristol ; 4thly, in Manchester. Aug.

Aug. 30, 1785.

Of Separation from the Church.

1. Ever since I returned from America, it has been warmly affirmed, "You separate from the Church." I would consider, How far, and in what Sense, this Assertion is true.

2. Whether you mean by that Term the Building so called, or the Congregation, it is plain I do not separate from either: For wherever I am, I go to the Church, and join with the Congregation.

3. Yet it is true that I have in some Respects varied, tho' not from the Doctrines, yet from the Discipline of the Church of England; altho' not willingly, but by Constraint. For instance: Above Forty Years ago I began *Preaching in the Fields*; and that for Two Reasons—First, I was not suffered to preach in the Churches: Secondly, No Parish Church in *London* or *Westminster* could contain the Congregation.

4. About the same Time several Persons who were desirous to save their Souls, prayed me to meet them apart from the great Congregation. These little Companies (*Societies* they were called) gradually spread through the Three Kingdoms. And in many Places they built Houses in which they met, and wherein I and my *Brethren* preached. For a few young Men, one after another, desired to serve me, as *Sons in the Gospel*.

5. Some Time after, Mr. *Deleznor*, a Clergyman, desired me to officiate at his Chapel, in *Wapping*. There I read Prayers, and preached, and administered the Lord's Supper, to a Part of the Society. The Rest communicated either at *St. Paul's*, or at their several Parish Churches. Meantime, I endeavoured to watch over all their Souls, as one that was to give an Account: and to assign to each of

6. When these were multiplied, I gave them an Invitation to meet me together in my House at London: That we might consider, in what Manner we could most effectually save our own Soul, and them that heard us. This we called, a Conference (meaning thereby, the Persons, not the Conversation they had.) At first I desired all the Preachers to meet me; but afterwards only a select Number.

7. Some Years after, we were strongly importuned by our Brethren in America, to "Come over and help them." Several Preachers willingly offered themselves for the Service; and several went from Time to Time. God blessed their Labours in an uncommon Manner. Many Sinners were converted to God: And many Societies formed, under the same Rules as were observed in England: Inasmuch, that at present the American Societies contain more than Eighteen Thousand Members.

8. But since the late Revolution in North America, these have been in great Distress. The Clergy having no Sustainance, either from England, or from the American States, have been obliged almost universally to leave the Country, and seek their Food elsewhere. Hence those who had been Members of the Church, had none either to administer the Lord's Supper, or to baptize their Children. They applied to England over and over: But it was to no Purpose. Judging this to be a Case of real Necessity, I took a step, which for Peace and Quietness, I had refrained from taking for many Years: I exercised that Power, which I am fully persuaded the Great Shepherd and Bishop of the Church has given me. I appointed three of our Labourers to go and help them by not only preaching the Word of God, but likewise administering the Lord's Supper and baptizing their Children, throughout that vast Tract of Land, a thousand Miles long, and some hundreds Broad.

3. These

3. These are the Steps, which not of Choice but Necessity, I have slowly and deliberately taken. If any one is pleased to call this *separating from the Church*, he may. But the Law of *England* does not call it so; nor can any one properly be said so to do, unless out of Conscience he refuses to join in the Service, and partake of the Sacraments administered therein.

CAMELFORD,
August 30, 1785.

JOHN WESLEY.

After Dr. Coke's return from *America*, many of our Friends begg'd I would consider the Case of *Scotland*, where we had been labouring so many Years, and had seen so little Fruit of our Labours. Multitudes indeed have set out well, but they were soon turned out of the Way: chiefly by their Ministers either disputing against the Truth, or refusing to admit them to the Lord's Supper, yea or to baptize their Children, unless they would promise to have no Fellowship with the *Methodists*. Many who did so, soon lost all they had gained, and became more the Children of Hell than before. To prevent this, I at length consented to take the same Step with regard to *Scotland*, which I had done with regard to *America*. But this is not a Separation from the Church at all. Not from the Church of *Scotland*, for we were never connected threewith, any further than we are now: not from the Church of *England*, for this is not concern'd in the Steps which are taken in *Scotland*. Whatever then is done either in *America* or *Scotland*, is no Separation from the Church of *England*. I have no thought of this: I have many Objections against it. It is a totally different Case.

“But for all this is it not possible there may be such

good I can while I live, for fear of Evils that may follow when I am dead."

Bristol, July 22, 1786.

Perhaps there is one Part of what I wrote some Time since which requires a little further Explanation. In what Cases do we allow of Service in Church Hours? I answer

1. When the Minister is a notoriously wicked Man.

2. When he preaches Arian, or any equally pernicious Doctrine.

3. When there are not Churches in the Town sufficient to contain half the People: And

4. When there is no Church at all within two or three Miles. And we advise every one who preaches in the Church-Hours to read the Psalms and Lessons with Part of the Church Prayers: Because we apprehend this will endear the Church Service to our Brethren, who probably would be prejudiced against it, if they heard none but extemporary Prayer.

A few little Advices I would add to the Preachers.

I advise the Assistants

1. To re-establish Morning Preaching, in all large Towns, at least.

2. To exert themselves in restoring the Bands.

3. And the Select Societies.

4. Change both a General and Particular Steward in each Circuit:

I advise all the Preachers.

1. Always to conclude the Service in about an Hour.

2. Never scream.

3. Never lean upon, or beat the Bible.

4. Wherever you preach, meet the Society.

5. Do

5. Do not, without the utmost Necessity, go Home at Night.

6. Never take Part against the Assistant.

7. Never preach a Funeral Sermon, but for an eminently holy Person: Nor then, without consulting the Assistant. Preach none for hire: Beware of Panegyric, particularly in London:

8. Have Love-Feasts in more Places.

9. Introduce no new Tunes. See that none sing too slow, and the Women sing their Parts. Exhort all to sing, and all to stand at Singing, as well as to kneel at Prayers.

10. Let none repeat the last Line, unless the Preacher does.

11. Inform the Leaders, that every Assistant is to change both the Stewards and Leaders when he sees good. And that no Leader has Power to put any Person either into or out of the Society.

JOHN WESLEY.

Aug. 13. 1786.



