

John Wesley to James Hutton

January 7, 1755.

Sir,

You justly observe in your letter of December 31, published in the London Daily Advertiser, that several friends and well-wishers of the Moravians into whose hands the writings of their adversaries have fallen "are somewhat impatient that the Moravians have hitherto published no direct answer to any wrote in this country and wish they would at last resolve to answer because their adversaries cry out in all companies that they have nothing to answer, and that their silence must be taken for confession."

I myself am "not fond of finding the Moravians guilty without trial I take no pleasure in any abuses thrown out upon them." Yet I confess "I begin to be almost staggered that so little answer is still given to the many accusations against them."

In order, therefore, to bring this matter to a short and clear issue, I have "summed up" as briefly as possible the most material parts of "the charge against the Moravians by reducing of them into the form of Queries at an Examination." And I do indeed "hope to get plain, positive, and categorical answers"; as this is, you say, "the very method the Moravians had so repeatedly desired, in order to enable them to give a reason of the hope that is in them."

You add: "I am glad that at last somebody will be so much concerned for the truth as to make some inquiry. For are not the charges against the Moravians of such a nature as to render an indolent indifference whether things are true or false almost unpardonable And should any man be listened to for a moment who would have the assurance to persuade the world, before he has seen the Queries and their Answers, that they will not come to the point."

None, I think, will have the assurance to deny that the Queries subjoined do "come to the point." And as "this is the very method which the Moravians have so repeatedly desired, who can doubt but they will give without delay plain, positive, categorical answers."

I might have drawn up the Queries with more accuracy, had I not considered, as you "hoped I would, the impatience in the public for an answer a close one to every point." I have therefore, as you desired, "used all possible speed," and yet have "taken care to form my Queries in such a manner that they might deserve the utmost attention, and come dose to the point."

Is it needful to remind you of that frank engagement to the public wherewith you close your letter "As soon as these Queries are finished, the Moravians, who expect them with earnest longing, will lose no time in answering them." --I am, &c.

You see the impropriety of adding my name.