THE Progreſs of Methodiſm IN *BRISTOL*: OR, THE *Methodiſt Unmask'd.*

WHEREIN

The Doctrines, Diſcipline, Policy, Diviſions and Succeſſes of that Novel Sect are fully detected, and properly diſplay'd, in *Hudibraſtick* Verſe.

By an Impartial Hand.

To which is added, by Way of Appendix,

The Paper-Controverſy between Mr. *Robert Williams*, ſupported by *Thomas Chriſtie*, Eſq; Recorder of *Savannah*, and the Rev. Mr. *Weſley*, ſupported, only, by his own Integrity and Aſſurance. Together with authentick Extracts taken from a late Narrative of the State of *Georgia*, relating to the Conduct of that Reverend Gentleman during his Abode in that Colony, *&c.*

BRISTOL:
Printed by *J. Watts*, in *Shannon-Court*, *Corn-ſtreet*.
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PREFACE.

THE Progress of Methodism, *and the real, or pretended Divisions of the* Methodists, *in this City, within five Years last past, having been so remarkably obvious; the following Lines are composed to shew their several Gradations, different Doctrines, Divisions and Successes; from all which it may not be difficult to discern their Tendency; from whence, also, any, who have a Mind to become their Proselytes, (no matter on which Side) may see on what Terms they may be admitted as Members of their respective Societies.*

Bristol, Jan. 26.
1742-3.

THE PROGRESS OF *Methodism*, &c.

THAT many groſs Deceits are rife,
And ſculk behind the Scenes of Life,
So evidently doth appear
It will admit no Queſtion here.
Men of all Orders and Degree 5
Look cloſely on, and you may ſee
No certain always can be had,
Who aims at good, or who at bad;
The Faults moſt eaſily conceal'd,
Are ſuch as with Religion veil'd; 10
When Policy puts on that Maſk,
'Twill ſoon facilitate the Taſk.

But

But notwithstanding Art or Care,
The Mask may chance to disappear.
When so; then, on a transient View, 15
You may distinguish false from true:
And, if the Muse assist my Pen,
Perhaps 'twill hit the very Men.

A Set of Men there are, I wist,
That bear the Name of *Methodist*, 20
Who travel up and down a pre-ching,
At *Bristol**, here, they came a teaching;
To speak the Truth, nor more nor less,
They, here, have met with such Success,
That, from the Observation made, 25
Their Preaching is a gainful Trade.
And this Design, to carry on,
Was undertook by *George* and *John*:
But who is *John*? or who is *George*?
Each one is left to think at large. 30

THESE two extolling one another,
Soon drew a Multitude together,
To whom they preached soon, and late;
In † Fields, and Woods, their Soul-sick State
They

* *Anno* 1737.

† *St. Philip's-Plain, Row-Green, King's-wood,* &c.

They did lament, but did assure 'em, 35
They came on *purpose* for to cure 'em;
That so they might no longer trust
In those they call Blind Guides, *(unjust)*
But, now, secure in *them* confide,
For doubtless, they would rightly guide 40
Them, how to have their Sins forgiven;
And lead them Step by Step to Heaven.

If all be true what here they say,
Pray who can chuse a better Way?

BUT, notwithstanding all this Cant, 45
'Twas plain they something else did want;
Then to their Audience did appeal,
Exciting them to Christian Zeal,
That Houses might be built, a-new,
For publick Worship, one, or two,
Wherein they might, by Night, or Day,
Together meet their Vows to pay.
A good Design to undertake,
If purely for Religion-sake.
Yet after all this great ado, 55
Still something more they had in view;
So, Charity they recommended,
For whom, and where, to be extended.
Soon after, they most loudly call
Upon their Hearers, one and all, 60

To contribute, out of their Store,
To pious Uses, (*somewhat more!*)
To give them, with a lib'ral Hand,
For * Orphans in a foreign Land.

THOSE Orphans' Cases *George* espouses, 65
Whilst *John* erects Religious Houses!
Good Shepherds always take that Care,
To fold their Sheep as well as shear.

NOW having publish'd this aloud,
The credulous, unthinking, Crowd 70
Believ'd these Gifts would more attone
Than Charity begun at home:
Beguiled by their subtil Words,
Their oily Tongues (yet sharp as Swords)
So slily preach'd them open-hearted, 75
They freely with their Money parted.
Thro' this Pretence the Work succeeds,
Such pious, charitable Deeds!
And thus to build, thus to relieve,
Induced the People, all, to give, 80
Which, still, before their Sermons ended,
Were always closely recommended.

THEN some selected ones, among
The rest, stood forth, addrest the Throng,
Crying,

* *To build an Orphan-House in Georgia.*

Crying, God bless you, Sirs, provide 85
For Orphans; *and for some beside.*
Some others plac'd themselves a-while,
Close standing at each Gate, and Stile,
The like Address did thus assume,
Sirs, mind the building of the Room *. 90
Then quick, on Plates, held out, you'd find
Much Money laid, of divers Kind;
Because 'twas said they did intend,
The Cash thus given to expend
In pious Uses. * * * * * *
All those, who did the same believe, 95
Did, of their Substance, frankly give:
And frequently, both here, and there,
Sums great, and small, collected were.
As often as the Preachers bade,
So oft' were those Collections made; 100
And all Collectors acted Right,
They ne'er refus'd the Widows Mite,
But what was gather'd, first, and last,
Into the Treasury was cast.

HOLD here, *say some*, correct your Pen,
Do Justice to the Gentlemen,

* *Behind the Horse-Fair in St.* James's.

For † *R—ms—y* gather'd Thirty Pound,
And with the Cash went off the Ground,
Which he conceal'd, with Secresy,
'Till, for some Crime*, condemn'd to die; 110
When §, under Sentence, he confest,
The very Sum that's here exprest.
This Man, you'll say, was a false Brother,
More so than any of the other;
Since Sacrilege was his Transgression, 115
The quite Reverse of their Profession.
But to return ———

WHEN Matters thus were brought about,
George thought it high Time to set out,
And visit *Georgia*, o'er the Main,
With this Design, he told 'em plain 120
'Twas to relieve the Orphan Poor,
With Part of this collected Store.
The Truth of which, shou'd any doubt,
They may go o'er and find it out.

FAREWELL to *George*, he now is gone, 125
But here remains his Brother *John*,
The greatest Artist in the Trade,
Who more, and more, Disciples made;
And

† *One of those employ'd in helping to collect, or gather up their Money, as above.*
* *At the* Old-Baily.
§ *In* Newgate.

And ſtill ſucceſsfully went on,
The Progreſs you ſhall hear anon. 130

No Contributions were diminiſh'd,
Becauſe the Room was yet unfiniſh'd.
Then, ſtrangely, for a certain While,
He led (I do not ſay beguile)
His Hearers into certain Notions, 135
Confirming them in their Devotions.
The Females all gave cloſe Attendance,
Whereof were ſome of ſure Dependance;
And ſuch, alone, were pitch'd upon,
A *holy Farce* to carry on, 140
A Thing which pleas'd 'em to the Heart;
Ambitious they to act the Part,
That gave Pretence to vainly boaſt,
They had receiv'd the Holy Ghoſt *.
But firſt, this *Rev'rend Man*, no Doubt, 145
Muſt caſt their *evil Spirits* out.

THE holy Scene, then, next begun,
Was, in this Manner, carried on.
Theſe Women, falling down before him,
As if (forſooth) they wou'd adore him, 150
And ſeem'd to be in ſtrange Confuſion,
Or, ſubject to a ſtrong Deluſion;

* *About this Time many of thoſe Women publickly declared they had, inſtantly, and feelingly, received the Holy Ghoſt.*

Be it the former, or, the latter,
It still availeth no great Matter ;
Because, they say *(if you will hear it)* 155
This Combat 'twixt the Flesh and Spirit,
The Benefit redounds, alone,
On them; to others 'tis unknown.
As, there, beneath his Feet they laid,
The Doctor over them he pray'd, 160
Yet still they grovel'd, on the Ground,
'Till he a proper Hymn had found ;
When, next unto his fervent Prayer,
This Hymn was sung by all were there ;
By Means whereof these, Women said, 165
Their evil Spirits from them fled *.

But how shall any one be sure,
Those evil Spirits haunt no more ?
Since stubborn Symptoms still remain,
Of which their Husbands oft complain. 170

Some others seem'd so strong convuls'd,
That first the Doctor was repuls'd ;

O'er

* Quere, *Whether this Gentleman is a licensed Exorcist? if not, he is a Cheat and an Impostor by the 72 Canon, which expresly says, 'That no Minister 'shall, without the Licence of the Bishop of the 'Diocese, attempt, upon any Pretence whatsoever, 'either of Possession or Obsession, to cast out any De-'vil or Devils, under Pain of the Imputation of 'Imposture or Casenage, and Deposition from the Mi-'nistry.*

O'er these he sung a second Hymn,
Which quite destroy'd the Man of Sin,
And gave their Minds such quick compose, 175
They, from the Ground, as quick arose,
And said they were converted Women,
And felt the Holy Ghost within 'em:
Then Hymns of Praise so loud were sung,
The Vale returning Echoes rung. 180

These Miracles did soon decline,
Extreams endure the shortest Time.

'Twas now about, or, near this Time,
I think, the Year was Thirty Nine,
John found that some, by him converted, 185
Neglected had, as they asserted,
A Christian Rite which was requir'd,
And ought, by all, to be desir'd.
In this he rightly did advise 'em,
And took upon him to baptize 'em; 190
Appointing out a proper Place *,
To dip them all; who had the Grace.

The Time when this was undertaken,
I think, by none can be mistaken;
Because the Rigour of that Season §, 195
To be remember'd, stands with Reason.

In

* *In the River Froom, at* Baptist-Mills, *about a Mile from* Bristol.

§ *In* January, *the severe hard Winter.*

In Time of that severest Frost,
Which did so cuttingly accost,
He very early, in each Morn,
Still call'd 'em forth for to adorn 200
Them with that Seal they had neglected,
A Benefit they now expected.
Accordingly they did repair,
Thro' Frost, and Snow, with shudd'ring, there;
Some came more quick, and some more slacker,
Their Teeth, within their Mouths, did hacker;
Some said the Cold wou'd do them Harm,
They said their Zeal wou'd keep them Warm;
They'd run the Risque, at all Event,
So broke the Ice, and down they went. 210
Those dip'd that Time, admits this Question,
Were they arriv'd unto Discretion?
But yet when warmer Weather came,
No more of this occur'd to Name.

The Room, * for publick Worship seated,
Was much about this Time compleated;
And some, more wise than all the rest,
On Consultation, thought it best
For ever to repose the Trust
Of that Foundation, in *the Just*, 220

A

* *Page* 9, *l.* 90.

A certain Number to be chosen,
Of Eight, or Ten, perhaps a Dozen;
But *John*, more cunning than them all,
Obedient to an inward Call,
Secur'd the Title of this Room 225
Unto himself, and Heirs to come.
Now, who can blame the Man of God,
Or, who can say he acted odd?
Their Souls *they trust within his Hands,*
Why mayn't they trust him with their Lands?
Therefore, henceforth, assert for true,
That *John*'s Arch-Priest and Patron too;
Who, being in that Rev'rend Station,
Took Care for proper Regulation.

NOTE, publick Worship now was open, 235
To all who came the Word was spoken.
Then, next, the Zealots did agree
To form a close Society;
Fix'd certain Times, they thought most fit
For them, and them alone, to meet: 240
Where, at such Times, none must come on
But such as Tickets had from *John*;
With this Device, upon the same,
The Number, and the Bearer's Name.
All other Comers then forbidden, 245
Excepting those who, thus Priest-ridden,
Believ'd, by Virtue of this Ticket,
They'r separated from the Wicked.

All

All those, as Members of the Place,
Make * Weekly Payments, more, or, less; 250
And such whose Circumstances alter,
Pay, further, by the † Month, or, Quarter.

SOON were those Weekly Payments doubl'd,
But do not think the Saints were bubbl'd.
A cogent Reason *John* pretended, 255
To have the Payments thus amended;
For why? a Mortgage now was found,
Amounting to Two Hundred Pound,
The Right whereof appeared good,
For which this Room engaged stood. 260
Nor less *than* this could be expected,
For who would part with Sums, collected
On such Account, to purchase land,
And raise a Fabrick out of Hand,
'Till some Expedient was found out 265
Such After-clap to bring about?

WHEN crafty *John* this Case had stated,
And Circumstances had related,
What could they less, than strait agree,
To set their House of Worship free; 270
Or,

* *They began at first with a Penny, but now two Pence is the lowest weekly Payment for each Member.*

† *One Shilling per Month, or five Shillings per Quarter; other Followers, not Members of the Society, their Payments are voluntary.*

Or, otherwise, remain'd a Doubt,
Lest *John* might be ejected out;
And this Ejectment to prevent,
They all agreed, with one Consent,
The Augmentation to supply, 275
And thought they had good Reason why:
* For ev'ry Day, by sound Report,
These Hood-wink'd People there resort,
At Morning five, and Ev'ning seven,
In their peculiar Way to Heav'n. 280
And some, 'tis said, *who thither come,*
Their Children want for Bread at home.

ANOTHER pious Resolution,
Or, further Plea for Contribution,
In † *Kings-wood* there was undertaken, 285
The Colliers Minds for to awaken;
Not willing any should be lost;
John spar'd no Pains, and they no Cost;
So, Contributions were repeated,
And a Religious House compleated; 290
Where *George*, before he went, *'tis said*,
The first Foundation-Stone ‡ had laid.

* *Page* 9. *Line* 90.
† *About two Miles from* Bristol.
‡ *He assembled the Multitude together at the laying of this Stone; which was then and there succeeded by Prayer, &c. but the further Building thereof was respited until now.*

But *John* the Structure up did raise,
Some say, *for Profit more than Praise:*
Be that as 'twill, it bears Renown 295
For Worship, like his House in Town;
Alike in both, for soft *Amuses*,
Are * proper Rooms for *private Uses.*

Now both these Rooms are often sounding
With singing, praying, and expounding; 300
All this, be sure, without Intriegue,
By *John*, and, *Charles*, his Colleague;
I might have said, *By Birth his Brother*,
Since Blood has ty'd 'em so together.
Think not they have deceitful Hearts, 305
No, no, they *Masters are of Arts*,
Who to their Audience do impart
A Doctrine, which they both assert,
And tell 'em (this they oft relate)
How that there is a sinless State, 310
Which, in this Life, may be acquir'd
By all, by whom it is desir'd;
And, if they follow their Direction,
They may attain to this Perfection,
Commit no Sin against the Lord, 315
In either Thought, or Deed, or Word.

WE *read, when* Christ *wrote on the Ground,*
Not one so perfect there was found;

Who

* *Furnished with Beds, &c.*

Who durst presume to cast the Stone:
All left the Woman *stand alone.* 320

On certain Times, within a Year,
Those * learned Doctors are not here;
From hence, they often sally forth
To *London*, *Wales*, or, to the *North* †;
But in their Absence still provide 325
Some *Understrappers*, which may guide
And feed the Flock, they leave behind,
With Food convenient for their Mind,
'Till their Return; for (some do say)
Those giddy Sheep are apt to stray; 330
Tho' many Things their Priests relate,
To sooth them in this perfect State,
And often plead with Resolution,
As if 'twas Gospel Institution.
The thoughtless Crowd, that flock to hear 'em,
(Who rightly think, go not a-near 'em,)
Believe their Doctrine is the right,
And surest Way to lasting Light:
But, should they find themselves mistaken,
And from their Lethargy awaken, 340
They'll then the *Ignis fatuus* dread,
By which they've been so long misled.

* John *and* Charles.

† Newcastle upon Tine, *where they have lately established the like Society as here.*

THREE fourth Parts, of what attend 'em,
Are *Female Sex*, and *John*'s to mend 'em;
For Women are most prone to fall, 345
Like *Eve*, their Mother, first of all,
Who, can they keep their Faults but hidden,
Will eat the *Fruit* that is forbidden.

THESE *Women* are, by *John*'s Commands,
To enter into *private Bands*; 350
Nor less than five, nor more than ten,
Exclusive of the Sons of Men;
Yet none attain this *holy Station*
But such who, first, have past *Probation*: *
Each *Band*, selected, *gentle*, *meek*, 355
Meet all together, once a Week,
Declare, to one another's Faces,
Their growing, or declining, *Graces*.

THE *gravest Matron*, in each *Tribe*,
With Prudence, o'er them does preside, 360
To *note the Sins* of all the rest,
'Fore whom each *Sister stands confest*,
And tho' they all *demurely* look,
Their Faults are enter'd in a Book;

All

* *Their Trial and Behaviour, which they call the publick Bands.*

All which, when proper Times come on, 365
Those *Matrons grave* report to *John*.
Then those *Delinquents* give Attendance,
To know from him, what is their *Penance*;
When such, who fell thro' weak Condition,
Come off with only *Admonition*; 370
And such, who cou'd more firmly stand,
Are humbled with a *Reprimand*;
But those, more flagrant in Offences,
Are, notwithstanding all Pretences,
Discharg'd, and so (*farewell their* **Ticket!*) 375
Turn'd out, again, among the Wicked:
And there they must remain, no doubt,
Or *buy* their *Restoration* out.
But some, who personate the Saint,
And make Confessions, thro' constraint, 380
They secret some peculiar Crimes,
By them committed, divers Times,
Such as their *Husbands* never knew,
Nor none but they, with —— *they know who*.

PERHAPS, for this it may be said, 385
These Women in Excuse may plead,
Don't *Papists* venture to conceal
A Fault they care not to reveal;
Some secret Sin reserve entire
Unknown to *Jesuit*, *Priest*, or *Fryar*; 390

If

* *Page*, 15. *l.* 242.

If they some Crime forbear to name,
Why mayn't *we* imitate the same ?

A *Watch-Night* they'r enjoin'd to keep,
Who, while they watch, refrain from Sleep ;
And then both *Male* and *Female* too, 395
They *join together* —— What to do ?
'Tis to be hop'd, no evil Thing,
But *watch*, and *pray*, and *praise*, and *sing:*
Yet those, who in the Night, thus *roam*,
Best watch them *out*, and watch them *Home*. 400
This Watch Night too, sometimes, they keep
In *King's-Wood Room* ; they lose some Sleep,
To execute that Duty there,
Where, many, out from *Town*, * repair,
And, when the *Celebration's* over, 405
'Tis very easy to discover,
Men, *Boys*, and *Girls*, and *Women* too,
Come strolling Home at Morning two.

ANOTHER Rite, that next comes on,
In order now to treat upon, 410
Is a *Love-Feast* ; for so they call it,
Tho' some do now and then *Forestall* it,
Like such who are for hasting on
To buy e'er Market is begun.

This

* Bristol.

This *Feast* is only *Bread* and *Water*, * 415
The Charge of that is no great Matter;
Yet so much Time is spent, by some,
To *feast* Abroad, they *fast* at Home.
This Feast (and Fasting) is their Duty,
The *Doctor*, only, reaps the *Booty*; 420
But recommends to them the Tryal,
Of *Abstinence*, and *Self-Denial*.
This *loving Feast* (if that be right)
Is celebrated, too, by Night;
Which Time, and Thing, they much admire,
For why? it suits with their Desire,
Their *Ghostly Father* to revere,
When he and all his *Sons* draw near
The *pious Sisters*, *Wives*, and *Misses*,
And greet them, well, with *holy Kisses*. 430

Now where is he, who can disprove,
This Feast to be a *Feast of Love?*
However! it wou'd best become,
Those *Wives* for to be *kiss'd at Home*.

THIS novel Doct'rine, so religious, 435
(I'd almost call'd it Superstitious;)
Altho' such Hecatombs do follow,
Who counts 'em wise, his Brain's but shallow;
And

* *Cake Bread.*

And, therefore let him number'd be,
With those of this Society, 440
Which are, by *John*, so regulated,
They'r into minor Classes * stated;
And each contains an even Dozen,
In whom is left no Room for Cozen;
Because that each respective Class, 445
A proper Head, or Leader has,
Who gather up their Weekly pay,
Not † *R—ms—y* like, to run away,
But what they gather, think most meet,
To lay at *John* the Doctor's Feet. 450
In Holy-writ we read, you'll find,
When blinded Leaders lead the Blind,
Together in a Ditch they fall;
This Gospel-truth is known to all.
These Leaders, when you count 'em right, 455
Amount in all to Forty-Eight,
Each Leader on his Class doth call,
And *John*, alone, he leads 'em all.
However, still, to do him right,
Some Cash goes out for Candle Light: 460
They meet by Night, and then (pray mark this)
Without such light They'r all in Darkness.

THESE

* *Forty eight Classes.*

† *Page* 10, *Line* 108.

THESE Things are so, you plainly see,
Thro' Frantick-Zeal, and Bigotry;
Which set those People all a madding, 465
And running, up and down, a gadding,
In which they seem to take such Pleasure,
They disregard all earthly Treasure.
So glib do flow their Weekly Pays,
So well the Doctor sings, and prays, 470
That Priest, and People, all do say,
None live such holy Lives as they;
However, this appears notorious,
These holy ones are most censorious.
A sinless State, some put such Face on't, 475
To say they're got within an Ace on't;
Yet there are some, whom I can name,
Have had an Ace, and miss'd the Game.

THE Pharisee (with proud disdain)
His boasted Virtues did proclaim: 480
The Publican went off the Winner,
Who did confess himself a Sinner.

ALL Things, as yet, went smoothly on,
By prudent Management of *John*,
Who kept his Flock in such Decorum, 485
They all went in and out before 'm
With great Alacrity of Spirit,
Esteeming him a Man of Merit.

However, as Ill-luck wou'd have it,
At last appear'd an Affidavit, * 490
Accusing *John*, by setting forth———
But hold —— to stain his Cloth I'm loth,
And therefore, think, I had much better
Refer you to a printed Letter, §
Which doth, as sure as you was born, 495
Coroborate with what was sworn.

JOHN having met with this Attack,
In Vigilance he was not slack;
For well he knew that such Detraction
Wou'd Umbrage give, and Satisfaction, 500
To purge himself, wou'd be expected,
Or else the Cause might be neglected.
That this might not eclipse his Glory,
(For none like him to gloss a Story)
He thought it best to make Reply 505
To *jurat coram*, by and by.
Against the Letter next did write, ‡
And all, who clearly had their Sight,
Did

* *Made by Mr.* Robert Williams, *of* Bristol, *Merchant*

§ *Wrote by* Thomas Christie, *Esq; Recorder of* Savannah; *both printed and publish'd here, and now re-printed herewith.*

‡ *He caused his Replies, to both the Affidavit and Letter, to be likewise printed and published, which are also re printed herewith.*

Did well discern the *Sophistry*,
As plain as One and Two makes three. 510

JOHN strove to prove the Whole a Fiction,
From, what he calls, a Contradiction;
Which, if consider'd but a While,
You easily may reconcile.
If those two Men, his Bail, as said, 515
One staid behind, one with him fled,
Then both appears for to be true,
He left his Bail and took it too.
Yet still the Sect of his Persuasion,
Who wou'd not see thro' this Evasion, 520
With Bronze and wonted Resolution,
Said *John* was under Persecution,
And bore Reproach, amidst 'em all,
As undeserved as Saint *Paul*.

FROM hence the *Bigots* all concluded, 525
By him they could not be deluded,
On what did now, or might, appear,
They'd close their Eye, and stop their Ear;
Believing all he said, before
What any others said or swore. 530

WHAT greater *Blindlings* can there be,
Than those resolved not to see?

Such Obstinacy blindeth more,
Than Doctor *T—yl—r* * can restore.

It happens now that *George*, again, 535
Returns from *Georgia*, o'er the Main,
Lo! various Things do now and then
Occur, thus to employ the Pen.
George tells you (who can chuse but mind him)
What useful Things he left behind him, 540
In which the Cash had been laid out,
The Truth of which you needn't doubt,
Because 'tis printed § to your View,
And who wou'd print what was not true?
There you may see what he did job in, 545
As Laces, Inkle, Pins and Bobbin,
With others of as great Importance,
All very useful for the *Orphans*.
Now, who beside, that you can name,
Wou'd, for these Orphans, do the same; 550
Such costly Things, of divers Kind,
To buy and leave with them behind.

To make this Tract the more compleat,
Occasion comes in Hand to treat,

Sometimes

* *The most famous Oculist of this present Age.*
§ *A printed Catalogue, publish'd on his Return.*

Sometimes of one, then of the other, 555
But now again of both together;
For now appears a strange Division,
'Twixt *John* and *George*, about Religion,
Much like the falling out of Friends,
In publick Shew, for private Ends; 560
Or Lawyers pleading for their Fee,
Who seem to differ, yet agree.
When *George* return'd he thought it fit,
John's Doctrine for to contradict;
And *John* as loudly he exclaims 565
Against the Doctrine *George* maintains.

PERHAPS some People may surmise,
How can such Difference arise
'Twixt these two Men; how can it be,
Who so exactly did agree; 570
For surely here we are a-ground,
Until a Reason can be found:
In what they differ, we would know it,
And for what End, if you can show it.

WELL! must I undertake the Task, 575
Inform those People what they ask?
Then, these are, what I have been told,
The Points of Doctrine *George* doth hold,

An

An absolute *Predestination*,
Election, and a *Reprobation*, 580
With a *particular Redemption*;
And one Thing more remains to mention,
A State of *constant Perseverance*.
Observe the Points, and their Coherence;
But *John*, who has another Taste, 585
Denies 'em all, from first to last.

Now you shall hear what *John* professes,
And that, you'll say, the quite reverse is,
A *sinless State*, compleat *Perfection*
In this frail Life, without Defection: 590
And, what he further saith is this,
Redemption universal is,
That *free's* the *Will*, to stand or fall:
These Tenets *George* denies them all,
All Querists, here, may plainly see, 595
Wherein those Fathers disagree;
A little Patience to attend,
We'll shew them also for what End.

These warm Debates caus'd their dividing,
Each other's Doctrine they deriding, 600
With such Vehemence, 'twas no Wonder
To see them parted thus asunder.

As

As for the Sheep, two Flocks they made 'em,
Like *Jacob* and his Uncle *Laban*,
Which did this near Resemblance bear, 605
Some white*, some Black†, some spotted were ‡.
But yet, I think, that *Jacob* never
Did mingle all the Sorts together,
Like those, who with their Shepherd's Crook,
All sorts together seek to hook; 610
The Church of *England*, what they can,
The *Romanists*, all to a Man,
The *Quaker*, and the *Antinomian*,
The *Arian*, and the *Muggletonian*,
The *Independent*, and *Arminian*, 615
Predestinarian, and *Socinian*,
The *Ana-Baptist*, *Presbyterian*,
And the unsteady *Here and There-ian*,
And many more attend their Call,
Have no Religion, none at all. 620
Lo! some of all Denominations
Complete their medly Congregations.

JOHN (*being perfect*) kept Possession
Of both the Rooms, without all Question;
He minded neither *con* nor *pro*, 625
He firmly stood in *statu quo*,

He

* *Citizens.* † *Colliers.* ‡ *Loose Gentry.*

He left his Brother in the Lurch,
A Preacher, but without a Church.
But *George*, who Destiny believ'd,
His Doctrine knew would be receiv'd, 630
And therefore to be heard and seen,
He preached in the Bowling-Green ;*
Where many People flock'd to hear him,
Some lik'd, some went no more a-near, him.
Thro' this a Party Sect arose, 635
The other Party to oppose ;
And, more to cultivate this Distance,
From *John* to *George*, went two Assistants, †
That others, led by their Example,
To follow might have Reason ample. 640
'Tis often said, and often seen,
Decoy-Ducks *draw the others in.*

PERFECTION and Predestination,
Each loudly call'd for Approbation.
For *George* who preach'd, as well as *John*, 645
With Zeal, was drawing many on,
And, thro' the Turn of these Assistants,
His Doctrine met the less Resistance.
So, by these cunning Artifices,
Two Nets were cast to catch the Fishes. 650

THE

* *In the* Pithay. † S - - - x *and* H - - - ys.

THE Party now attach'd to *George*,
Were willing to contribute large;
Because they saw how Doctor *John*
Two Rooms had got, and *George* had none;
They plainly, saw before their Eyes, 655
The Case was so; this Enterprize
Was then resolv'd, without Delay,
Nem. con. for so they all did say,
That *George*, 'twas thus concluded on,
Shou'd have Two Rooms, as well as *John*. 660
They were contented to be drain'd
By *George*, but *John* they quite refrain'd.

LO! here you see, Benighted-Zeal
Helps to advance each Doctor's Weal;
A House*, or Room, with joint Consent, 665
Was taken, at an annual Rent,
And proper Alterations made,
To fit it for their Preaching-Trade;
Where, they might all resort together,
Free from th' Inclemency of Weather; 670
Where they might all, with one Accord,
Together meet, to serve the Lord.
This first Part of their Resolution,
Was done, with easy Contribution;
The other Part, resolved on, 675
More costly was, you'll judge anon.

* *The* Smith's Hall, *in the* Quakers Friars.

NOTE, *John* a Room built in the * Wood,
There they agreed to build as good,
Which shou'd not, in the least Degree,
With what he built inferiour be. 680
As quick as Time cou'd bring about,
The † Ground was fairly measur'd out;
Next the Foundation, then the Structure,
Was laid, was rais'd in Architecture,
Where now the Fabrick doth appear, 685
With Preaching, and Expounding there:
Thus Double-Rooms each Doctor suiting,
They're both upon an equal Footing,
Where all may come that have a Mind,
(Who will not come may stay behind) 690
Each may their Minds, and Purses ease,
In Town, or Country, as they please.

FROM hence, you see by what Induction,
Into his Rooms, to give Instruction,
Each Holy-Father got Possession, 695
For to support his own Profession.

AND now they made a mighty Pother,
Antagonists to one another;
Each, seeming, strove to gain the better,
For Gain alone was now the Matter. 700
And

* *Page* 16. *Line* 286.
† *About Half a Mile distant from* John's *Room.*

And each his Hearers, roundly, told,
Sheep muſt be kept within the Fold;
That if they ſtray'd, from one to t'other,
They ſurely wou'd be loſt for ever;
Shou'd any one be thus deluded, 705
He from the Saints wou'd be excluded;
'Twas, either Side, by this Relation,
A ſure Preſage of their *Damnation*.
Theſe Rev'rend Doctors thus denouncing
Anathema's, each Side pronouncing, 710
Their Hearers, with them, did agree
To ſay, *Amen, So let it be.*

FROM thence each Side ſtuck cloſe together,
To rail at, and condemn, the other:
Each Side proclaim'd, with Sound of Tongue,
The other Side was in the wrong.
(Yet each was right, when they did ſay
The other Side was led aſtray.)
Each Side ſo ſtrangely were deceiv'd,
That this they ſtedfaſtly believ'd; 720
Themſelves ſecure, the others not,
Each Side had thus the better Lot:
But others ſay, and ſome proteſt,
Chooſe either Side, and Bad's the beſt.

THUS whilst, in jest, the Doctors snarl'd,
Their Devotees, in earnest, quarrell'd
So warmly, that you might perceive,
Their Faith was pinn'd upon their Sleeve.
Such Faith, you'll say, is but implicit,
And those best off who chance to miss it, 730
Who, not consenting to embrace it,
On Trust alone, before they trace it,
All such are out of this Design,
To speak of them is losing Time;
And therefore, to prevent Digression, 735
Each Side, confirm'd in their Profession,
The Cause prevailing, *Good*, or *Bad*,
They parted free from what they had;
Obsequious, always, at their Call,
They still continue, one and all, 740
Nay, you'd admire for to see
Each Party's great Docility.

NO Flocks of Sheep, like those are here,
Bear constant Shearing, all the Year;
And constant Shearing, as I take it, 745
Will keep a Sheep for constant naked;
And so we'll leave those diff'rent Flocks,
Augmenting still their Shepherds' Stocks,
Who (Softlings like) their Cash deposit,
For whom? or what? ask him who knows it.

But

But they who teach 'em, best can tell,
Apply to them, they know full well.
They keep Accounts in true *Perfection*,
As best agrees with their *Election*;
Where this, *particular*, rich Treasure, 755
Affords them, *universal*, Pleasure
To have it at their own *Free-will*,
And *persevere* to keep it still.

THUS *John*, and *George*, like artful Gallants,
Did each, with Gain, encrease their *Talents*;
They were not idle, no not they,
Each flung the Napkin quite away;
But yet, say some judicious Men,
Where *George* gain'd five, that *John* gain'd ten;
Because, say they, we plainly wist, 765
How *John*'s the best *Oeconomist*;
For why, the *Leaders* *, said before,
To make his Fund the more secure,
Ten *Stewards* § over them he plac'd,
For to prevent all Fraud or waste, 770
And *Four*, who were call'd the Chief,
Were chosen, Men of *good Belief*;
These, lock the Treasure in a Chest,
Have diff'rent Keys, but none the rest;

And,

* *Page* 24, *l.* 448.
§ *A late Regulation.*

And, shou'd you ask 'em, can they say, 775
That *John* has not a *Master-Key*.

THERE's one Thing more to mention yet,
A Thing not proper to forget,
Which will redound unto the Fame
Of *John*, and *George*, who act the same; 780
A Scheme concerted to the Life,
To strengthen *Weaklings* in the Faith:
For, once a Month, their *Rev'rend Betters*
Exhibit forth *Religious Letters*,
And tell 'em (*sure they're not Deceivers*,) 785
Those Letters issue from *Believers*;
From distant Parts *, by Post, they come,
Bring welcome News to those at Home.
These Letters, then, are open spread,
Which, publickly, the *Doctors* read; 790
The Doors stand ope, all may draw near,
Who have a Mind the same to hear;
Wherein are couch'd some shrewd Expressions,
Acquainting of some strange Conversions;
How fast their Numbers do increase, 795
What Comfort, Joy, what inward Peace,
What Soul Experiences they had,
How many turn'd to Good from Bad:

How

* *London, Newcastle*, &c.

How free the Contributions flow,
The most material Thing to know. 800
Those Letters yield so much Content,
They to, and from, are Monthly sent;
And then, each Clerk, employ'd to write,
Must, what his Master doth indite.

THO' here is laid before your View, 805
What *John* and *George* have done, and do,
I hope you will not be so nanght.
To call the Whole a Piece of Craft.

SO stands the Case, this present Time,
Those *Eccles'asticks*, both divine, 810
As such we ought for to revere 'em;
For so do all who trot to hear 'em.

BUT lo —— says one if I shou'd List
For to become a *Methodist*,
How shall I know which Side to chuse, 815
The Right embrace, the Wrong refuse?
Because that I have lately seen,
Within a certain Magazine *,
How *George* pretends to Inspiration,
And likewise *John* to Revelation. 820

The

* *The Gentleman's Magazine for June* 1741, vid. *Page* 321.

The Holy Spirit, as they say,
Inspires each a diff'rent Way.
A diff'rent Way! can that be true?
This seems, to me, perhaps to you,
Too much absurd to reconcile; 825
The holy Spirit's free from Guile.
Yet this they have pretended long,
And each one says the other's wrong;
This fixes firm my Resolution,
By which they'll miss my Contribution: 830
If they no better can agree,
I'll e'en stick close to where I be.
If neither one be in the Right,
'Tis best to bid them both good Night.
Thro'out the whole, to this Conclusion,
Here's nothing blended in Confusion;
All Things are trac'd, progressive, on,
In order whence they first begun. —
Shou'd Criticks, who mislike this Lay,
For Cavil-Sake, pretend to say, 840
Some Points of Time are not exact,
What then? —— they can't evade the Fact;
The Fact so clear appears to all,
None can its Truth in Question call;
More strong than common Fame alone, 845
Because to Thousands, here, 'tis known;
Therefore each Party, here, may see,
They treated are impartially:

The

The Author had no more in view,
But, thus, to render both their Due;
And ſhou'd they thank him for his Care,
'Tis more than he expects to hear;
Or ſhou'd they call him Erring-Brother,
Why, even, ſo they call each other.

F APPEN-

APPENDIX.

Mr. *Robert Williams*'s

AFFIDAVIT.

City of Briſtol (*to wit.*) } *Robert Williams*, of the *City* of BRISTOL, *Merchant*, maketh Oath, that he well knows *John Weſley*, late of *Savannah* in the Province of *Georgia*, *Clerk*, but now Reſident in the *City of Briſtol*; and ſaith that, about the Month of *Auguſt*, which was in the Year of our Lord *One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Thirty Six*, He, this *Deponent*, arrived at *Savannah* aforeſaid on board the Ship *Grenadier*, *William Woodward*, Commander, in order to trade and ſettle Plantations there, he having before obtained a Grant from the Truſtees for Five Hundred Acres of Land; and ſaith that he continued there for about the ſpace of Two Years, and then made a Voyage to *Saint Chriſtopher's*; on which Voyage he was out about four Months, and then returned back again to *Savannah* aforeſaid, where he continued upwards of ſix Months, and then left the Colony in

in order to proceed to *England*; and accordingly arrived at the Port of *London*, the Beginning of *November* last, *(viz.) One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine.* And this *Deponent*, saith, That, during the time he was at *Savannah*, he Traded very largely, Built very considerable Buildings, both at *Savannah* and other parts of the said Colony, and greatly improved large Tracts of Land, and was esteemed to have one of the chief Settlements in the said Colony. And this *Deponent* saith, That soon after he arrived at *Savannah* aforesaid, the said *Wesley* then being, and, for near the space of twelve Months before, having been, resident there, the common Conversation in Company there was concerning the said *John Wesley*, his Method of *Preaching*, and Manner of *Life* and *Behaviour*, *and how he had seduced the common Persons there settled, to Idleness*, and what other *Mischiefs* he had there done; and particularly saith, It was then common Fame, and a current Report and received Opinion, amongst most of the Principal Settlers there, that the said *Wesley had been guilty of Using too great Familiarities with one Mrs.* Sophia Christiana Hopkey, Neice *to* Thomas Coston *Esq*; chief Magistrate of *Savannah*, and *that he continued so to do, till such time as the said* Sophia Christiana Hopkey *was married to one Mr.* William Williamson, *of Savannah* aforesaid, *a Gentleman of considerable Note there*; and this *Deponent* saith, That, after the said *Sophia Christiana Hopkey* was married to the said Mr. *Williamson*, a Report was, that some *Uneasinesses* had arisen between them touching several *Letters*, *and Messages*, *sent by the said* Wesley *to the said Mrs.* Williamson,

Williamson, *desiring her to meet him at divers Unseasonable Hours, and Places, in the Night, many of which were at his, the said* Wesley's, *own Closet*; and that, thereupon, the said Mr. *Williamson* had applied to the said *Wesley* to *desist* from such *Proceedings*, and *Practices*, for the future, and that the said *Wesley solemnly* promised to *desist* accordingly; but this *Deponent* saith, that notwithstanding such *Protestations*, he the said *Wesley* did not *desist* from such *Practices*, but persisted therein; which this *Deponent* the better knows, for that he this *Deponent*, being, as aforesaid, esteemed one of the chief Settlers there, was, by Virtue of a Precept, or Summons from *Thomas Chistie*, Esq; *Recorder* of *Savannah* aforesaid, summoned, with Forty Three others of the Principal Inhabitants of the *Town* and *County* of *Savannah*, to appear, on the *Grand Jury*, at a *Court*, to be held before the *Bailiffs* and *Recorder*, of the said *Town*, on the Twenty Second day of *August*, which was in the year of our Lord *One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Seven*, in order to inquire into the *Behaviour* and *Proceedings* of the said *Wesley* in the particulars before mentioned: And this *Deponent* saith, That he, with such Forty Three others, in Obedience to such Precept or Summons, attended the *Court* on the *Second day of August* aforesaid, and were then, and there, sworn on the *Grand Jury*, to inquire into the Matters and Things aforesaid: And this *Deponent* further saith, That while the said *Court* was sitting, and this *Deponent*, and others the said Persons, were charged and sworn on the said *Grand Jury* as aforesaid, *Two* several *Bills of Indictments were*

preferred

preferred against the said John Wesley, on the Prosecution of the said *William Williamson*, for *Misdemeanours*, and for the writing and sending the several *Letters* and *Messages* to the said *Sophia Christiana*, Wife of the said *William Williamson*, to meet him at *Unseasonable Times* and *Places*, and endeavouring to *seduce* her as aforesaid; and this *Deponent* saith, that after the said *Bills* were preferred, and sent to this *Deponent*, and the rest of the *Grand Jury*, there were at least *Ten Creditable Witnesses* produced before them, in support of the *Charges* against the said *Wesley*, contained in the said *Bills*; and several of the said *Letters*, before mentioned to be sent by the said *Wesley*, to the said Mrs. *Williamson*, were then also produced, some whereof were signed, and others not signed, but this *Deponent* saith, that all the said *Letters* were by the said *Witnesses* proved to be of the Hand Writing of the said *John Wesley*, and the other *Charges* in the said *Bills* were also proved to be true; and thereupon *this Deponent and the rest of the Grand Jury, Unanimously agreed to*, and accordingly did, find *the said Bills against the said* Wesley, *for the Offences aforesaid*. And this *Deponent* saith, That the same Day on which the said *Bills* of *Indictment* were found, he, this *Deponent*, was in company with some of the said *Bailiffs*, *Judges* of the said *Court*, who told this *Deponent*, that as the said *Bills* of *Indictment* were found against the said *Wesley*, they would shew him, being a *Clergyman*, all the Lenity they could, especially in a New *Colony*, and therefore *would admit him to Bail*, if he would get any proper Persons who would bail

him

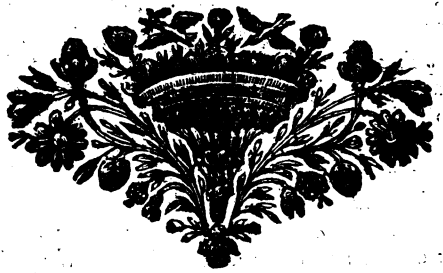
him *for his Appearance at the then next Sessions*: And this *Deponent* saith, That afterwards, and as this *Deponent* believes, the same Day, the said *John Wesley, was Bailed by Two Freeholders of the said Town of Savannah*, one of which he believes to be *Henry Loyd*, but the Name of the other this *Deponent* cannot recollect, for his the said *Wesley's Appearance* at the then next *Sessions*, in order to take his Trial for the *Offences* aforesaid. And this *Deponent* further saith, *That, a little before the Sessions came on, at which the said* Wesley *was Bailed to take his Tryal* as aforesaid, he, the said *Wesley, about the Middle of the Night*, in a *Secret, Clandestine* Manner, *quitted the Colony, deserted his Bail, and went off in a Boat for Purysburgh*, being about Twenty Miles from *Savannah*, and from thence, as was reported, walked on Foot *to Charles-Town in South Carolina, being about Two Hundred Miles*, and from thence *embarked* for *England*: And this *Deponent* saith, That the next Day after the said *Wesley* so *quitted* the said *Colony*, and *deserted* his Bail as aforesaid, *the Justices* having Notice thereof, *threatened to prosecute and imprison his Bail for such his Desertion* and Leaving the said *Colony, who were in the utmost Confusion concerning the same, but by the Interposition of this* Deponent, *and several others of the Inhabitants* of the said *Colony, in behalf of the said Bail*, and the Lenity of the *Justices* there, *and to prevent Destruction to their respective Families*, they *the* said *Justices*, on this *Deponent's* Leaving the said *Colony*, being the third Day of *June, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine*,

Nine, had *respited the Recognizances* of the said Bail *during Pleasure*.

ROBERT WILLIAMS.

Sworn, at the City of Bristol *aforesaid, the Fourteenth day of* March, *in the Year of our Lord* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine, *before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of, and for, the said City*,

STEPHEN CLUTTERBUCK, Mayor.



A

LETTER

FROM

The Reverend Mr. *John Wesley*, to Capt. *Robert Williams*; occasioned by an Affidavit made some time since, and lately re-printed.

SIR,

TO prove, That *Robert Williams traded very largely during the Time he was at* Savannah; That *he built very considerable Buildings both at* Savannah, *and other Parts of the Colony*; That he *greatly improv'd large Tracts of Land there*; *and was esteemed to have one of the chief Settlements in the Colony:* You have not so much as quoted *common Fame*. So he that *will* believe it, let him believe it.

But you have quoted *common Fame*, to support several Charges against *John Wesley*, Clerk: As, That *he seduced the common People settled there to Idleness*; That *he used too great Familiarities with Mrs.* Hopkey, *and continued so to do 'till she was married to Mr.* William Wil-

liamson *of* Savannah, *a Gentleman of considerable Note there:* ('Tis much *a Gentleman of so considerable Note* as *Mr. William Williamson* would marry her!) That *he sent her several Letters and Messages after her Marriage, desiring her to meet him at divers unseasonable Hours and Places*; *Many of which* (Hours or Places?) *were at his, the said* Wesley's *own Closet: A Report was*, you say, that *these Things were so.* Wou'd any Man desire better Proof?

I am not surpriz'd at all, That upon *such* Evidence, you should advance *such* Assertions. But I really am, at what you afterwards assert, as upon your own personal Knowledge, *viz.* That *two Bills of Indictment being preferred against* John Wesley, *and sent to the Grand Jury of* Savannah (Bills of Indictment *sent* to a Grand Jury! what kind of Proceeding is this!) *This Deponent and the rest of the Grand Jury, did* unanimously *agree, to the said Bills.* How dare you, Sir, assert so gross a Falshood? Have you *no* Regard either for your Reputation or your Soul? Do you think, there is no GOD to judge the Earth? You know, you *must* know, how large a Part of that Grand Jury did absolutely disagree to every Bill of the Two Presentments, and gave those Reasons of Disagreement to the Trustees, which neither you nor any Man has yet chose to answer. You assert farther, That I *was bailed by Two Freeholders of* Savannah, *for my Appearance at the then next Sessions.* Here I charge you, with a Second, Gross, Wilful Falshood. You know, I never was bail'd at all. If I was, name the

Men:

Men: (*Henry Lloyd* is ready to confront you) or, produce an attested Copy of the Record of Court. You assert, Thirdly, That *a little before the Sessions came on* (*viz.* the next Sessions after those Bills were found) *I deserted my Bail.* Here is another gross, wilful, palpable Untruth: For 1. No Bail was ever given; 2. I appeared at seven Sessions successively, after those Bills were found, *viz.* on *Thursday Sept.* 1: On *Friday Sept.* 2: At three other Sessions held in *September* and *October*: On *Thursday Nov.* 2: And, lastly, on *Thursday Nov.* 22. (Your smaller Falshoods, as that I *quitted the Colony about the Middle of the Night*; That *from* Purrysburg *to* Charles-Town *is about two Hundred Miles*; [You shou'd have said about Ninety] That *I walked on Foot from thence to Charles-Town*; I pass over as not material) You, lastly, assert, *That the Justices threatned to prosecute and imprison my Bail for such his Desertion, who were in the utmost Confusion concerning the same. But by the Interposition of this Deponent, and several others, on behalf of the said Bail, and to prevent Destruction to* their *respective Families, the Justices respited their Recognizances during Pleasure.*

And this is, altogether, fit to crown the whole. Now, Sir, as you know in your own Soul, that every Word of this is pure Invention, without one Grain of Truth from the Beginning of it to the End; what Amends can you ever make either to God, or to me, or to the World? Into what a dreadful Dilemma have you here brought yourself? You must either openly retract an open Slander, or you must wade thro' thick and

thin to ſupport it ; 'till that God, to whom I appeal, ſhall maintain his own Cauſe, and ſweep you away from the Earth.

I am, Sir, your Friend,

John Weſley.

N. B. This was written July 16, *but I had not Leiſure to tranſcribe it before* Auguſt 3, 1742.

Touching ſome of the Particulars above-mentioned, for the Satisfaction of all calm and impartial Men, I have added a ſhort Extract from the larger Account which was publiſh'd ſome Years ago.

ON *Monday, Auguſt* 22. *Mr. Cauſton*, then the Chief Magiſtrate of *Savannah*, (having before told me, himſelf, ' I have drawn ' a Sword and will never ſheath it, 'till I have ' Satisfaction,') delivered, to an extraordinary Grand Jury which he had ſummoned to meet there, a Paper entitled, —— *A Liſt of Grievances, preſented by the Grand Jury for* Savannah, *this* —— *Day of* Auguſt, 1737.

This

This the Majority of the Grand Jury altered in ſome Particulars, and on *Thurſday*, *Sept.* 1, delivered it again to the Court under the Form of two Preſentments, containing ten Bills, which were then read to the People.

Herein they aſſerted upon Oath, 'That 'JOHN WESLEY, *Clerk, had broken the Laws* 'of the Realm, *contrary to the Peace of our* 'Sovereign Lord the King, *his Crown and Dignity.*

'1. By ſpeaking and writing to *Mrs. Williamſon*, againſt her Huſband's Conſent.

'2. By repelling her from the holy Communion.

'3. By not declaring his Adherence to the 'Church of *England.*

'4. By dividing the Morning Service on 'Sundays.

'5. By refuſing to baptize *Mr. Parker's* 'Child otherwiſe than by Dipping, except the 'Parents would certify it was weak and not able to bear it.

'6. By repelling *Mr. Gough* from the holy 'Communion.

'7. By refuſing to read the Burial Service 'overthe Body of *Nathaniel Polhill.*

'8. By calling himſelf *Ordinary* of *Savannah.*

'9. By refuſing to receive *William Aglionby* 'as a Godfather, only becauſe he was not a 'Communicant.

'10. By refuſing *Jacob Matthews* for the 'ſame Reaſon; and baptizing an *Indian* Trader's Child with only two Sponſors.' (This, I own, was wrong; for I ought, at all Hazards,

to

to have refus'd baptizing it, 'till he had procured a Third.)

The Sense of the Minority of the Grand Jurors concerning these Presentments, may appear from the following Paper, which they transmitted to the Trustees.

To the Honourable the TRUSTEES for *GEORGIA*.

'WHEREAS two Presentments have been made, the one of *August* 23, the other of *August* 31, by the Grand Jury for the Town and County of *Savannah*, in *Georgia*, against *John Wesley*, Clerk. ——— We whose Names are underwritten, being Members of the said Grand Jury, do humbly beg Leave to signify our Dislike of the said Presentments——— and give the Reasons for our Dissent from the particular Bills.

'With regard to the first Bill, we do not apprehend that *Mr. Wesley* acted against any Law, by writing or speaking to *Mrs. Williamson*, since *it does not appear* to us, *that* the said *Mr.* WESLEY *has either spoke in private, or wrote to* the said *Mrs.* Williamson, *since* March [the Day of her Marriage] *except one Letter of* July *the 5th, which he wrote, at the Request of her Aunt, as a Pastor, to exhort and reprove her.*

'The Second, we do not apprehend to be a true Bill, because we humbly conceive *Mr. Wesley* did not assume to himself any Authority contrary to Law; for we understand,

'*every Person, intending to communicate, should* '*signify his Name to the Curate, at least, some* '*Time the Day before*; which *Mrs. Williamson* 'did not do; altho' *Mr. Wesley* had often in 'full Congregation declar'd, He did insist on a 'Compliance with that Rubrick, and *had be-* '*fore repell'd divers Persons for Non-compli-* '*ance therewith.*

'The third we did not think a true Bill, be-'cause several of *us* have been his Hearers, 'when he has declared his Adherence to the '*Church of England*, in a stronger manner 'than by a formal Declaration; by explain-'ing and defending the *Apostles*, the *Nicene*, 'and the *Athanasian Creeds*, the Thirty nine 'Articles, the *whole Book of Common Prayer*, 'and the *Homilies* of the said Church: And 'because we think a formal Declaration is not 'requir'd but from those who have received In-'stitution and Induction.

'The Fact alledg'd in the fourth Bill we 'cannot apprehend to be contrary to any Law 'in being.

'The fifth we do not think a true Bill, be-'cause we conceive *Mr. Wesley* is justified by 'the Rubrick, viz. *If they* (the Parents) *certify* '*that the Child is weak, it shall suffice to pour* '*Water upon it.*" Intimating, as we humbly 'suppose, it shall not suffice if they do not 'certify.

'The sixth cannot be a true Bill, because 'the said *William Gough*, being one of our 'Members, was surprized to hear himself na-'med, without his Knowledge or Privity; 'and did publickly declare, *It was no Grie-*

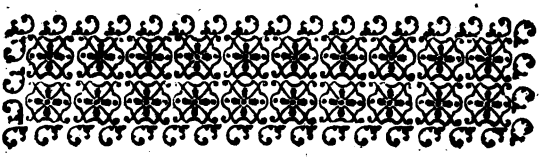
'*vance*

'*vance to him, because the said* John Wesley '*had given him Reasons with which he was satisfied.*

'The seventh we do not apprehend to be a 'true Bill, for *Mr. Nath. Polhill* was an A-'nabaptist, and desired in his Life-time, that 'he might not be interr'd with the Office of 'the Church of *England*. And farther we 'have good Reason to believe, That *Mr.* '*Wesley was at* Frederica, or on his Return 'thence, *when* Pollhill *was buried*.

'As to the eighth Bill we are in doubt, as 'not well knowing the meaning of the Word 'Ordinary. But for the ninth and tenth, we 'think *Mr. Wesley* is sufficiently justified by 'the Canons of the Church, which forbid '*any Person to be admitted Godfather or Godmo-*'*ther to any Child before the said Person has re-*'*ceived the Holy Communion*; whereas *William* '*Aglionby* and *Jacob Matthews* had never cer-'tified *Mr. Wesley*, that they had received it.'

This was sign'd by twelve of the Grand Jurors, of whom three were Constables, and six more Tythingmen: Who consequently would have made a Majority, had the Jury consisted, as it ought to have done, of only fifteen Members, *viz.* the four Constables, and eleven Tythingmen.



A

LETTER

FROM

Thomas Christie, Esq; Recorder of the Town and County of *Savannah*, in *Georgia*, (who has been in *England* these two Years past) to Mr. *Robert Williams*, Merchant in *Bristol*, in Answer to a Paper entitled, a Letter from the Rev. Mr. *John Wesley*, to Capt. *Robert Williams*

SIR,

I Receiv'd the Favour of yours, with a Paper entituled, ‘ A Letter from the Rev. Mr. ‘ *John Wesley*, to Capt. *Robert Williams*, oc- ‘ casioned by an Affidavit made some Time

'since and lately re-printed.' His Answer is so indirect and full of Evasion, that it must appear, to all impartial Judges, rather a Justification of what you had charged him with, than a Confutation.

As to your Improvements, they are so well known, nay, by Mr. *Wesley* himself, and that what you say, concerning them, is true; that his Evasion, and his leaving any Doubt, must reflect entirely upon him only, and plainly shew Malice and Insincerity.

The Fact he relates, in regard to his Indictments and Behaviour thereupon, stands in a different Light than he tells it. I will, here, give it you as near as I can recollect.

A Grand Jury of the principal Persons, within the Township of *Savannah*, in *Georgia*, being summoned and sworn, consisting of above Forty of the principal Inhabitants of the Northern Part of the Province, did find several Indictments against Mr. *Wesley*, containing the Complaints he mentions which, they agreed to, and delivered to the Court as true Bills, without making any Objection.

Mr. Wesley being called upon, by the Court, *Mr. John Coats*, and another Person offered to enter into a Recognizance for his Appearance, which they did and were accepted of.

Mr. Wesley did appear at the next Court, and desired his Tryal might be brought on, or his Recognizance estreated, but the Court (being very tender of him) took further Time to advise about it.

But

But *Mr. Wesley* continuing to disturb the publick Peace, and the Magistrates receiving several Petitions from *Mr. William Williamson*, laying fresh Accusations to his Charge, concerning his Wife and his Design of leaving the Colony privately, a great Penalty was, publickly, affixed against the Persons that should carry him away.

Notwithstanding which, in the Evening, after the Publication, he, privately, withdrew himself and took with him, not only the said *Coates*, who was one of his Bail and largely indebted to the *Orphans* and the Publick, but several other Persons, who took the Opportunity of going off, with him, with several Sums of Money, and greatly indebted, who never after returned or made their Creditors any Satisfaction. When *Wesley* and they went off, they gave out that they would oppose, with Violence, any Person that should attempt to seize any of them; and, immediately after, a great Reward was affixed, publickly, for the Apprehending *Mr. Wesley*.

As to his Relation of Persons dissenting on the Grand Jury, and his mentioning such a Thing, without Names and Date, must be a Story of his own making, or ought to be look'd upon as such.

There are many other Aggravations of *Mr. Wesley*'s Behaviour. I will take the first Occasion of sending you the Report made by the Court to the Trustees, of his endeavouring to make an Insurrection in the publick Court,

Whilst

whilst sitting, as likewise *Mrs. Mark's* Affidavit, which will be, still, further Memento's to convince the World what a base and *Jesuitical* Man he is.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

September 18,
1742.

Thomas Christie.

A

Second LETTER

TO

Capt. *Robert Williams*, Occaſion'd by a LETTER from *Thomas Chriſtie*, Eſq; (ſo call'd,) *ſome Time* Recorder of *Savannah*.

Briſtol, October 17, 1742.

SIR,

I Really did You Wrong. I believ'd the Letter ſaid to come from *Your very humble Servant*, had been of your own compoſing, 'till I had read it half thro'. But on a narrower Obſervation, I ſoon took Knowledge both of the Stile and Turn of Thought, ſo peculiar to *Mr. Thomas Chriſtie*; ONCE *Recorder* of *Savannah*, but NOW I fear (as before) wandering about, to ſeek a Piece of Bread. I wou'd not tread upon a Worm. Therefore let him paſs. My Concern, Sir, is with You. Not that I ſhou'd take any Notice of *ſuch* a Compoſition. Only ſome might think Silence a Proof of Guilt.

That

That *Mr.* Wesley's *Answer is so indirect and full of Evasion, as to be a Justification rather than Confutation of your Charge, that his leaving any Doubt as to Your Great and Well-known Improvements, plainly shews his Malice and Insincerity, and that Mr.* Christie *has still further Memento's to convince the World, what a base and Jesuitical Man he is:* These being mere Rhetorical Flowers, set to embellish the Discourse, need no Particular Reply.

But *the Fact* (says your Friend) *with regard to the Indictments, stands in a different Light than he tells it. And as to his Relation of Persons dissenting on the Grand Jury, must be a Story of his own making.* That is easily known. The Original Paper is lodg'd at the Trustees Office in *Palace-Yard*. And *Mr. Fathersfield*, one of those Dissenters, you know succeeded *Mr. Causton*, when *Mr. Christie* and he were displaced from their Offices.

'Tis great Pity that your Friend too did not *make Affidavit* of the Extraordinary Particulars following; 'That *Mr. Wesley* continued to 'disturb the publick Peace; That he endea-'vour'd to make an Insurrection in the pub-'lick Court while sitting; That the Magistrates 'receiv'd several Petitions, laying fresh Accu-'sations to his Charge, *and declaring* his De-'sign of leaving the Colony privately.' (An *extremely private* Design, of which five Days before I had given Notice by an Advertisement set up in the *Market-place!*) 'That several 'Persons took an Opportunity of going off 'with him, with several Sums of Money: 'That they gave out they wou'd oppose with

 'Violence

'Violence any Person, that should attempt to 'seize any of them; and that immediately after a great Reward was affix'd publickly for 'apprehending of *Mr. Wesley*.' You can't but own these are a great Improvement upon your Design, and wou'd found as well as your own Affidavit itself.

But wou'd it not be needful first, for *Mr. Christie* and you, to confer together, and agree upon your Story? Else he may again blunder out more than you desire, and confute you, instead of me. This, it is undeniable, he has done *now*, and that in the most material Parts of your Evidence. For, 1. You aver, 'That *Mr. Wesley being* bail'd for his 'Appearance at the then next Sessions, a little 'before the Sessions came on, deserted his Bail, 'and went away. *No, says Mr.* Christie, '*Mr.* Wesley, *after he was bailed*, did appear 'at the next Court, and desired his Trial 'might be brought on, or his Recognizance '*estreated. Again, Mr.* Christie *flatly affirms*, '*That Mr. John Coats*, who was one of his 'Bail, went off with *Mr. Wesley*, and never 'return'd: Whereas you aver upon Oath, 'That the Justices threaten'd to prosecute and 'imprison his Bail, and to prevent Destruction 'to their respective Families, the Justices re-'spited their Recognizances during Plea-'sure.' *

Now, Sir, seeing these Accounts are utterly inconsistent, seeing it is impossible ever to reconcile

* *See this seeming Contradiction reconciled, Poem, ver.* 515, &c.

concile them, give me leave to ask you one plain Question, which I would beg you seriously to consider. Is *Thomas Christie*, Esq; a gross, notorious Liar, one who neither fears God, nor regards Man? Or, is *Robert Williams*, Merchant, a vain, weak Man, who having causelesly and wilfully forsworn himself, neither knows how to get backward or forward, how to retract his Perjury, or how to defend it?

I am, Sir,

Your Friend,

John Wesley.

EXTRACT

From a Book entituled, *A true and Historical Narrative of the State of GEORGIA*, publish'd by the principal Land-Holders of that Colony, so far as it relates to the Conduct of Mr. *John Wesley*, during his Residence there.

The AUTHORS, *having brought down their Narrative to the End of the Year* 1736, *when Advice came that the* Spaniards *intended to attack the Colony, from the* Havannah, *and lamenting the ill State of the said Colony, and the defenceless Condition they were then in, goe on thus:*

AND now to make our Subjection the more compleat, a new Kind of Tyranny was, this Summer, begun to be imposed upon us; for Mr. *John Wesley* who had come over, and was received by us as a Clergyman of the *Church of England*, soon discovered that his Aim was to enslave our *Minds*, 1737.

as a necessary Preparative for enslaving our *Bodies*. The Attendances upon Prayers, Meetings, and Sermons, inculcated by him, so frequently, and at improper Hours, inconsistent with necessary Labour, especially in an infant Colony, tended to propagate a Spirit of Indolence, and of Hypocrisy amongst the most abandoned; it being much easier for such Persons, by an affected Shew of Religion, and Adherence to Mr. *Wesley*'s Novelties, to be provided by his Procurement from the publick Stores, than to use that Industry which *true* Religion recommends: Nor, indeed, could the Rev. Gentleman conceal the Designs he was so full of, having, frequently, declared, *That he never desired to see* Georgia *a rich, but a* * *religious Colony*.

At last, all Persons, of any Consideration, came to look upon him as a *Roman Catholick*, for which the following Reasons seem pretty convincing. *1st*. Under an affected strict Adherence to the Church of *England*, he most unmercifully damned all *Dissenters* of whatever Denomination, who were never admitted to communicate with him until they first gave up their Faith and Principles entirely to his moulding and Direction, and, in Confirmation thereof, declared their Belief of the Invalidity of their former Baptism, and then to receive a new one from him: This was done publickly on the Persons of *Richard Turner*, Carpenter, and his Son. Another Instance was that of *William Gaff*, who had once communicated and always con-

* *According to his System.*

conformed to his Regulations, but was, at last, found out by *Mr. Wesley* to have been baptized by a *Presbyterian Dissenter*, the same Thing was proposed to him; but *Mr. Gaff*, not inclinable to go that Length, was ever thereafter excluded from the Communion.

2dly, While all *Dissenters* (whereof a considerable Number was in the Colony) were, thus, unmercifully damned, and shut out from Religious Ordinances, contrary to that Spirit of Moderation and Tenderness which the Church of *England* shew towards them, Persons suspected to be *Roman Catholicks* were received and caressed, by him, as his First-Rate Saints.

3dly, A third Confirmation of this Suspicion arose from his Endeavours to re-establish Confession, Penance, Mortifications, mixing Wine with Water in the Sacrament, and suppressing, in the Administration of the Sacrament, the Explanation adjoined to the Words of Communicating by the Church of *England*, to shew that they mean a Feeding on Christ by Faith, saying no more than *The Body of Christ*; *The Blood of Christ*; by appointing Deaconesses, with sundry other Innovations, which he called *Apostolick Constitutions*.

4thly, As there is always a strict Connexion betwixt *Popery* and *Slavery*; so the Design of all this fine Scheme seem'd, to the most judicious, to be calculated to debase and depress the Minds of the People, to break any Spirit of Liberty, and humble them with Fastings, Penances, drinking of Water, and a thorough Subjection to the Spiritual Jurisdiction, which, he asserted,

was to be eſtabliſhed in his Perſon; and when this ſhould be accompliſhed. the Minds of the People would be, equally, prepared for the Receiving Civil or Eccleſiaſtical Tyranny.

All *Jeſuitical* Arts were made Uſe of to bring the well concerted Scheme to Perfection; Families were divided in Parties; Spies were engaged in many Houſes, and the Servants of others brib'd and decoy'd to let him into all the Secrets of the Families they belonged to; nay, thoſe who had given themſelves up to his ſpiritual Guidance (more eſpecially Women) were oblig'd to diſcover to him their moſt ſecret Actions, nay, even their Thoughts and the Subject of their Dreams: At the ſame Time he gave Charge to Juries; gave his Opinion in all Civil Cauſes that came before the Court; nor could we imagine what all this would end in: Complain we might, but to no Purpoſe: And *Mr. Cauſton* and he went *Hand in Hand.*

But the merciful Providence of God diſappoints, frequently, thoſe Deſigns that are laid deepeſt in Human Prudence.

Mr. Weſley, at this Time, repulſed *Mrs. Sophia Williamſon*, Neice to *Mr. Cauſton*, from the Sacrament. This young Lady was, by her Friends, put under the Ghoſtly Care of *Mr. Weſley*, who was pleaſed to make Propoſals of Marriage to her: Theſe ſhe always rejected; and, in ſome little Time, married *Mr. William Williamſon* of *Savannah*, much contrary to *Mr. Weſley's* Inclinations. After the ſaid Marriage *Mr. Weſley* uſed all Means to create a Miſ-underſtanding betwixt *Mrs. Williamſon* and her Huſband,

Husband, by persuading her that *Mr. Williamson* had no Right to regulate her Behaviour as to conversing with him, or attending Meetings as formerly; but, at last finding he could gain Nothing upon her, and that *Mr. Williamson* had forbad him any Conversation with his Wife, out of his Presence; he took the 'foresaid Means, by repelling her from the Holy Communion, to shew his Resentment. *Mr. Williamson* thought himself well founded in an Action of Damages against *Mr. Wesley*, (being no longer supported by *Mr. Causton*, who was highly nettled at the Affront put upon his Neice, and could now declaim as fluently against Spiritual Tyranny, as any Person) was indicted, before a Grand Jury of 44 Freeholders, and thirteen Indictments were found against him; one concerned *Mr. Williamson* and his Spouse, the others concerning the Grievances we felt by his Measures, and the Exercise of his Ecclesiastical Functions, as above related: These last were given in to the Magistrates, to be, by them laid before the Trustees, that these our Grievances, might in Time coming, be properly redressed, we having no other Jurisdiction, either Civil or Ecclesiastical, that we could make Application to. Then the Grand Jury began to consider and think, that as it was not probable a greater Number of *the better Sort* of People could ever be legally met together; so this was a fit Time to represent their Grievances and Hardships to the Trustees, which they did in a *long* Representation, *chiefly complaining of the Conduct of Mr. Causton*; he

Original

Original of which was signed by all the 44 and and afterwards sent Home, but was taken no Notice of by the Trustees for any Thing ever we heard; and we hope it will appear to every judicious Reader, that this Jury was neither *bassed* nor *intimidated* by *Causton*, to the Prejudice of any Person whatsoever, as *Mr. Wesley* asserts in his Journal, printed at *Bristol*, 1739. He likewise says, there was a profess'd *Atheist* and *Deist* in the Number; but, for our Parts, we know of neither: But a Man of *Mr. Wesley*'s Principles, who makes no Scruple of writing wilful Falshoods (as may be seen by any Body that compares *this Narrative* with *his Journal*) and of damning every Person of a contrary Opinion with himself; may, without Hesitation, give People what Appellations come in his Head: However this put an End to any further Prosecution of *Mr. Wesley*'s Schemes; for, soon after this, he departed the Colony privately, by Night, and went to *Charles-Town*, and from thence to *England*.

Mr. Wesley had Address enough (as he says in the forementioned *Journal*) to persuade several Persons, who were Members of the Grand Jury, to retract (by some Paper which he drew up for them to sign) their former Sentiments; but this, *if it was at all*, proceeded entirely from the solemn Assurances which he gave them, *that his main Design Home, was to represent the Grievances and Oppressions which the poor Colony laboured under*; and, upon this Account, was charged with divers Letters and Papers, from private Persons, relating to the Colony, which he

he undertook, *faithfully*, to deliver: But, as we have ſince found that all *Mr. Oglethorpe*'s * Intereſt was employed to protect *Mr. Weſley*, it is no Wonder thoſe Promiſes were never fulfilled; nor, indeed, could it ever be aſcertained that even the private Letters, which he carried, were ſo much as delivered.

* *Many, if not moſt, of thoſe Letters being Complaints againſt Mr.* Oglethorp's *Conduct.*

FINIS.

ERRATA.

PAGE 8. *line* 80. *for* induced, *read* induc'd.

Page 34, *the first Annotation, read page* 17, *line* 285, &c. *Page* 37, *the first Annotation, read line* 446.