

## METHODISTS AND PRESBYTERIAN SCOTLAND

THOSE minds which are considering the question of union between the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches will find something of interest in the story of the dealings of the Presbyterians of Scotland with George Whitefield and John Wesley. Hitherto there has been little or no impulse from without to explore this interesting and instructive episode in religious history. The institutions created by the great Methodist preachers in Scotland were never so great that either Methodist or Presbyterian historians should dwell on them; and Scottish historians, as is only human, have laid stress on the steady and continuous succession of evangelical preachers which their own church has produced. Burton, it is true, refers to Whitefield's first visit and mentions the revival at Cambuslang: "There had arisen one of those strange and melancholy exhibitions called religious revivals, with which, fortunately, Scotland has been but rarely and but casually visited." Not a word suggests that it may have grown out of the Methodist movement, though Burton does say that when Whitefield appeared and preached "the spiritual tempest was worked up to its wildest climax." Similarly, Cunningham, in his "Church History of Scotland," tells of Whitefield's clash with the seceders and of his preaching, but does not suggest any connexion of the great evangelist with the beginning of the "Cambuslang work." This, we are told, "occurred, not under the preaching of Whitefield, but under the preaching of Mr. McCulloch, the pastor of the parish." Later, Whitefield arrived, "increasing the excitement by his impassioned oratory." Finally, Cunningham dismisses the revival, which spread to various parts, by saying, "Like an epidemic, it had mysteriously come and it now as mysteriously disappeared;" much as a solemn medicine-man might close a