

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the New York Christian Advocate.

THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

MR. EDITOR.—When in Leeds, England, the Rev. Robert Newton presented to Mrs. Fisk a small bust of the Rev. John Wesley, said to be a perfect likeness of him at the time it was taken. A friend, in addition, procured for us the accompanying account of the circumstances and the occasion in which it is said the original of the likeness was taken. As the whole is very interesting and characteristic, I have herewith forwarded it for publication. If you think well of it, please to insert it in the Christian Advocate and Journal.

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ANECDOTE OF THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

Mr. Duley was one evening taking tea with that eminent artist, Mr. Culy, when he asked him whether he had seen his gallery of busts. Mr. D. answering in the negative, and expressing a wish to be gratified with a sight of it, Mr. Culy conducted him thither, and after admiring the busts of the several great men of the day, he came to one which particularly attracted his notice, and on inquiry, found it was the likeness of the Rev. John Wesley. "This bust," said Mr. Culy, "struck Lord Shelbourne in the same manner it does you, and there is a remarkable fact connected with it, which, as I know you are fond of anecdote, I will relate to you precisely in the same manner and words that I did to him." On returning to the parlour, Mr. C. commenced accordingly:—

"I am a very old man; you must excuse my little failings; and, as I before observed, hear it in the very words I repeated it to his lordship: 'My lord,' said I, 'perhaps you have heard of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodists.' 'O yes,' he replied; 'He—that race of fanatics!' 'Well, my lord; Mr. Wesley had often been urged to have his picture taken, but he always refused—alleging as a reason, that he thought it nothing but vanity; indeed, so frequently had he been pressed on this point, that his friends were reluctantly compelled to give up the idea. One day he called on me, on the business of our church. I began the old subject of entreating him to allow me to take off his likeness. 'Well,' said I, 'knowing you value money for the means of doing good, if you will grant my request, I will engage to give you ten guineas for the first ten minutes that you sit, and for every minute that exceeds that time you shall receive a guinea.' 'What!' said Mr. Wesley, 'do I understand you aright, that you will give me ten guineas for having my picture taken! Well, I agree to it.' He then stripped off his coat, and lay on the sofa, and in eight minutes I had the most perfect bust I had ever taken. He then washed his face, and I counted to him ten guineas into his hand. 'Well,' said he, turning to his companion, 'I never till now earned money so speedily—but what shall we do with it?' They then wished me a good morning, and proceeded over Westminster Bridge. The first object that presented itself to their view was a poor woman crying bitterly, with three children hanging round her, each sobbing, though apparently too young to understand their mother's grief. On inquiring the cause of her distress, Mr. Wesley learned that the creditors of her husband were dragging him to prison, after having sold their effects, which were inadequate to pay the debt by eighteen shillings, which the creditors declared should be paid. One guinea made her happy! They then proceeded on, followed by the blessings of the now happy mother. On Mr. Wesley's inquiring of Mr. Barton, his friend, where their charity was most needed, he replied, he knew of no place where his money would be more acceptable than in Giltspur-street Compter. They accordingly repaired thither, and on asking the turnkey to point out the most miserable object under his care, he answered, if they were come in search of poverty, they need not go far. The first ward they entered, they were struck with the appearance of a poor wretch who was greedily eating some potatoe skins. On being questioned, he informed them that he had been in that situation, supported by the casual alms of

compassionate strangers, for several months, without any hope of release, and that he was confined for a debt of half a guinea. On hearing this, Mr. Wesley gave him a guinea, which he received with the utmost gratitude, and he had the pleasure of seeing him liberated with half a guinea in his pocket. The poor man, on leaving his place of confinement, said, 'Gentlemen, as you came here in search of poverty, pray go up stairs, if it be not too late.' They instantly proceeded thither, and beheld a sight which called forth all their compassion. On a low stool, with his back toward them, sat a man, or rather a skeleton, for he was literally nothing but skin and bone; his hand supported his head, and his eyes seemed to be riveted to the opposite corner of the chamber, where lay stretched out on a pallet of straw, a young woman, in the last stage of a consumption, apparently lifeless, with an infant by her side, which was quite dead. Mr. Wesley immediately sent for medical assistance, but it was too late for the unfortunate female, who expired a few hours afterwards from starvation, as the doctor declared. You may imagine, my lord, that the remaining eight guineas would not go far in aiding such distress as this. No expense was spared for the relief of the now only surviving sufferer. But so extreme was the weakness to which he was reduced, that six weeks elapsed before he could speak sufficiently to relate his own history. It appeared he had been a reputable merchant, and had married a beautiful young lady, eminently accomplished, whom he almost idolized. They lived happily together for some time, until, by failure of a speculation in which his whole property was embarked, he was completely ruined. No sooner did he become acquainted with his misfortune, than he called all his creditors together, laid before them the state of his affairs, and showed them his books, which were in the most perfect order. They all willingly signed the dividend except the lawyer, who owed his rise in the world to this merchant; the sum was £250, for which he obstinately declared he should be sent to jail. It was in vain the creditors urged him to pity his forlorn condition, and to consider his great respectability—that feeling was a stranger to his breast, and, in spite of all their remonstrances, he was hurried away to prison, followed by his weeping wife. As she was very accomplished, she continued to maintain herself and her husband for some time solely by the use of her pencil, in painting small ornaments on cards. And thus they managed to put a little aside for the time of her confinement. But so long an illness succeeded this event, that she was completely incapacitated from exerting herself for their subsistence, and their scanty savings were soon expended in procuring the necessaries which her situation then required. They were driven to pawn their clothes, and their resources failing, they found themselves at last reduced to absolute starvation. The poor infant had just expired from want, and the hapless mother was about to follow it to the grave, when Mr. Wesley and his friend entered; and, as I before said, the husband was so reduced from the same cause, that, without the utmost care, he must have fallen a sacrifice; and as Mr. Wesley, who was not for doing things by halves, had acquainted himself with this case of extreme misery, he went to the creditors, and informed them of it. They were beyond measure astonished to learn what he had to name to them; for so long a time had elapsed without hearing any thing of the merchant or his family, some supposed him to be dead, and others that he had quitted the country. Among the rest, he called on the lawyer, and painted to him, in the most glowing colours, the wretchedness he had witnessed, and which he (the lawyer) had been instrumental in causing; but even this could not move him to compassion. He declared the merchant should not leave the prison without paying him every farthing! Mr. Wesley repeated his visit to the other creditors, who, considering the case of the sufferer, agreed to raise a sum and release him. Some gave £100, others £200, and another £300. The affairs of the merchant took a different turn: God seemed to prosper him, and in the second year he called his creditors together, thanked them for their kindness, and paid the sum so generously obtained. Success continuing to attend him, he was enabled to pay all his debts, and afterwards realized considerable property. His afflictions made such a deep im-

pression upon his mind, that he determined to remove the possibility of others suffering from the same cause, and for this purpose advanced a considerable sum as a foundation fund for the relief of small debtors. And the very first person who partook of the same was the *incomparable lawyer!*"

This remarkable fact so entirely convinced Lord Shelbourne of the mistaken opinion he had formed of Mr. Wesley, that he immediately ordered a dozen of busts, to embellish the grounds of his beautiful residence.

THE PRESENT RACE OF METHODIST PREACHERS.

A NEW race of preachers have arisen; and as we are investigating the present state of Methodism, we must devote a little attention to the education which these preachers receive, and the attainments which, on an average, they make.

We have already acquitted them of quackery; their knowledge is required for use, not for display; and they have no "college," like Cheshunt, where caps and gowns are worn, and a ridiculous imitation of Cambridge and Oxford kept up; but, on the other hand, they have a very excellent Theological Institution, where young men intended for the ministry among them are able to obtain a good useful education. It is not to be supposed that they could offer the same learning that the Universities can, where the most brilliant scholars of the day are the tutors and professors, and where fellowships and dignities are the meed of the most successful student; neither do they affect it. Thus much, however, may fairly be claimed for them: that their preachers as far exceed those of other sects in information, as they do in Christian spirit. It is to be noticed, also, that there are no men more free from affectation, and from what is familiarly called cant, than the Methodist preachers. This will, doubtless, appear a strange assertion to many; but those who best know the truth of the case, will be best persuaded that our statement is correct. They are often men of wit and humour, abounding in anecdote, and enlivening religion by a rational cheerfulness; and we may with reason exclaim, both with regard to preachers and people, "*Cum tales sillis, ulinam nostri essetis.*"—Church of England Quarterly Review.

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

THE Sixth Resolution of the "Scottish Society for promoting the due Observance of the Lord's Day," is in the following terms:—

"That the Sabbath, like every other day of the week, being a seventh part of time, care should be taken to dissuade all men from the modern error of compromising the Fourth Commandment, by merely recognising the sanctity of what are termed 'Church hours,' while, by desecrating any other of the twenty-four hours of the Lord's day, they profane the Sabbath."

THE SABBATH IN ENGLAND IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Miss AIXEN, in her "Court of Queen Elizabeth," describing a visit of Her Majesty to the University of Cambridge, observes, "The next morning, which was Sunday, she went thither (King's College Chapel) again to hear a Latin sermon *ad clerum*, and in the evening, the body of this solemn edifice being converted into a *temporary theatre*, she was there gratified with a representation of the Aularians of Plautus. Offensive as such an application of a sacred building would be to modern feelings, it probably shocked no one in an age when the practice of performing dramatic entertainments in churches, introduced with the mysteries and moralities of the middle ages, was scarcely obsolete, and certainly not forgotten. Neither was the representation of plays on Sundays, at this time, regarded as an indecorum."

"During the early part of her reign, Sunday being still regarded principally in the light of a holiday, Her Majesty not only selected that day more frequently than any other, for the representation of plays at court, for her own amusement; but, by her license, granted to Burbage in 1574, authorized the performance of them at the public theatre, on *Sundays only*, out of the hours of prayer."