



SAMUEL WESLEY'S GRAVE, ON WHICH HIS SON, JOHN WESLEY, PREACHED.

The Wesleys were familiar with this revered spot. With Whitefield and others of the "Holy Club," they also regularly visited the felons in the public prison. Within its gloomy dungeons the martyr-bishops, Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley, were confined, and from it they walked to their funeral pyre. Here, we may be sure, the Wesleys often mused, catching inspiration from the example of those heroic men, and willing, if need were, to die like them for the Lord they loved so well.

In due course John Wesley was ordained a minister of the Established Church, and for a time aided his father, then sinking under the weight of years, at Epworth.

On his father's death John Wesley was invited to succeed him as rector at Epworth. He was also requested to go with his brother as a missionary to Georgia. The decision rested upon the consent of his venerable mother. "I can be," he said, "the staff of her age, her chief support and comfort." But the heroic soul, notwithstanding her lonely widowhood, replied, "Had I twenty sons I should rejoice that they were all so

employed, though I should never see them again."

On board the ship by which the brothers sailed to the New World were a number of German Moravians with their bishop. The vessel became at once "Bethel church and a seminary." Daily prayer and preaching, the study of the Scriptures and Christian divinity, and instructing the children filled up the hours. During a terrific storm, which greatly alarmed the English passengers, the pious Moravians, even the women and children, sang calmly on, unafraid to die—a lesson which the Oxford Fellows had not yet learned.

In Georgia the Wesleys devoted themselves with ascetic zeal to missionary toil. "They slept on the ground rather than on beds, they refused all food but bread and water, and John went barefooted that he might encourage the boys of his school—a condescension better in its motive than in its example." The matter-of-fact colonists did not appreciate such ascetic piety, and the Wesleys soon found it expedient to return to England.

"I went to America," wrote John Wesley in his journal, "to convert the Indians, but, oh! who shall convert me? I have a fair summer religion; I can talk well, nay, and believe myself, while no danger is near; but let Death look me in the face and my spirit is troubled, nor can I say to die is gain."

Yet he continued to preach and pray, though suffering great disquietude of soul. He renewed his acquaintance with the Moravians by attending their services in London. One evening a layman was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. Wesley writes: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ and Christ alone for salvation, and