

"O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, etc." He thought "How beautiful it reads: what if this is for me?" and became decided for religion. With many mystical extravagances, he was yet one of the greatest of German theologians and did much to stem the tide of rationalism. John George Hamann, a Prussian of Königsberg, was leading a dissipated life in London, when one night, taking up his Bible, he read, in Genesis iv., the story of Cain. A voice seemed to tell him "Thou art the man!" Hereafter, during a strangely paradoxical life, he also in a mystical way, preached to thousands, through the press, a theology which made Christ the centre and substance of all truth.

The annals of Methodism teem with tales of texts that have told. John Wesley himself visited Epworth, his native place; and, when the church of which his father had been minister was shut against him, he preached in the churchyard to a great concourse of people. His text was Matthew v., the Sermon on the Mount. For three hours, not counting the flight of time, he pressed his message home. Not a single person, however careless, to whom his father or himself had ever spoken was able to resist the truth that day. So vast a multitude Epworth never saw before, as he gathered in the harvest of his father's planting. Southey tells of a number of rough men met in a beer-shop, who for sport personated Methodist preachers. A Bible being brought in, they preached their ribald discourses in turn. The fourth took for his text Luke xiii., 3. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." No sooner had he begun, than his hair stood on end and his whole frame was convulsed; then, collecting himself, he delivered a wonderful sermon on repentance which brought at least one of his comrades to his knees. He afterwards said that if ever he preached by the Spirit, it was then. Hervey, the author of the *Meditations*, a friend of Whitefield and Wesley, though a chaste and elegant scholar, was unawakened by all appeals till God attracted him by the sight of Luke x., 27. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." A little later was