

of this rule and consequently as a *recantation of our connexion*; for, suppose (what I utterly deny) that the receiving you as a preacher at the same time gave an authority to administer the sacraments, yet it gave you no other authority than to do it or any thing else where I appoint. But where did I appoint you to do this? No where at all. Therefore by this very rule you are excluded from doing it; and doing it you renounce the first principle of Methodism. Now as long as the Methodists keep to this plan they CANNOT *separate from the Church*.

* * * I believe one reason why God is pleased to continue my life so long, is, to confirm them in their present purpose NOT to *separate from the Church*. I wish all of you, who are vulgarly called Methodists, would seriously consider what has been said; and particularly you whom God has commissioned to call sinners to repentance; it does by no means follow from hence that you are commissioned to baptize or administer the Lord's Supper. Ye never dreamed of this till ten or twenty years after ye began to preach. Ye did not then, *like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram*, SEEK THE PRIESTHOOD ALSO. O! contain yourselves within your own bounds; be content with preaching the gospel. * * * Ye yourselves were first called in the Church of England; and though ye have, and will have a thousand temptations to leave it, and SET UP for yourselves, regard them not; BE CHURCH-OF-ENGLAND-MEN STILL; do not cast away the peculiar glory which God has put upon you, and frustrate the design of Providence, the very end for which God raised you up."* Such were the words,

* The above extracts are taken from a sermon preached by the Rev. John Wesley, at Cork, in Ireland, about two years before his death; and are to be found in his Works, vol. vii. London, 1831. Mr. Wesley, writing afterwards to the Editor of the *Dublin Chronicle*, somewhat over a year before his death, thus strongly and solemnly recorded his impressions. "Unless