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For the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."—SCRIPTURE.

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Poetry.

FOLLOWING CHRIST.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me." John xii. 26.

To follow Christ—too pure appears
The walk for erring feet ;
But he dispels our doubting fears,
And sanctifies desponding tears,
And makes e'en sorrow sweet.

To follow Christ—the heavenly light,
How precious seems the way ;
When, like a beacon in the night
The sinner gladly hails the sight
Of mercy's cheering ray.

To follow Christ—love is the road,
Open to every soul ;
When weary of its mortal load,
It thirsts for that divine abode
Where living waters roll.

To follow Christ—the track is faith,
It points from hope to Heaven ;
And leads the soul from scenes of death,
To share in that celestial breath,
To perfect spirits given.

To follow Christ—the path is peace,
Redemption bids us come ;
And offers joys that never cease ;
A bright eternity of bliss,
An everlasting home.

A. W.

Biographical.

LIFE OF THE REV. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

ABRIDGED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

CHAPTER I.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD was born in Gloucester, in England, near the close of the year 1714. He was the youngest of seven children, and having been bereaved of his father when only two years old, was regarded by his mother with peculiar tenderness, and educated with unusual care.

At an early age he became the subject of religious impressions, but his goodness was as the morning cloud and early dew.

Between the years of twelve and fifteen he made considerable progress in the Latin classics at the public school ; and even at this early period his eloquence began to manifest itself in the speeches which he delivered at the annual visitations. In consequence of his mother's straitened circumstances, at the age of fifteen he was taken from school to assist in the business of the inn she then kept. And although deprived of the usual means of improvement, his genius began

strongly to discover itself ; for in this unfavourable situation he composed several sermons, one of which he dedicated to his eldest brother ; and after visiting him at Bristol, returned with the resolution to abandon his present employment, and engage in some one more congenial with his inclinations.

As he was now for some time entirely out of employment, and but poorly supported from his mother's scanty income, he was in great danger of being utterly ruined by his former companions ; but from these snares he was saved by the restraining grace of God.

When he was about seventeen years of age he was again favoured with the influences of the Divine Spirit, and in an unusual degree ; and having prepared himself, received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. He now became watchful over his thoughts, words, and actions, spent much of his time in reading devotional books, attended public worship regularly and frequently, and became so deeply interested, that the things of religion constantly and almost exclusively occupied his mind.

At eighteen years of age Mr. Whitefield entered the university of Oxford, where he was again exposed to the snares of the *wicked* ; but by Divine assistance he was enabled to avoid them ; and cultivated an acquaintance with such persons only as appeared to be governed by a sense of religious obligation.

At Oxford he became acquainted with Messrs. John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the now numerous and prosperous denomination of Methodists ; and under the ministry of the Rev. Charles Wesley he received so much benefit, that he ever after regarded him as his spiritual father.—Being now convinced of the necessity of regeneration, he used the means of grace with diligence and perseverance ; he fasted twice a week, visited the sick and the prisoners, and was very exact in redeeming the time, that no moment might be lost. He also changed the course of his studies, and read only such books as were calculated to promote his spiritual interests.

Having joined an association, the members of which, on account of their strictness and regularity, were opprobriously termed "Methodists," and subsequently the "Godly Club," at the head of which were the Wesleys, Mr. Whitefield began to be tried as by fire. He not only lost his reputation, and was forsaken by some of his dearest friends, but he was exercised with mental trials, and those of the severest kind. Many nights he lay sleepless on his bed, and many days prostrate on the ground. But after having groaned many months under the burden of his sins, he was enabled to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereupon obtained sur-