

eray. In Wesley's day the food for the brain was better than that for the body, and Jacky was nearly starved. He obeyed the wise counsel of his father, that he should run around the large garden three times a day. He thus got up an excellent appetite, even if he did not get very much to gratify it.

In three years he entered Christ Church College, Oxford, where he continued his classical studies. He became Greek lecturer at the university when a little more than twenty-three years old. In Hebrew, too, he was one of the best scholars of the age. About this time he was joined by his younger brother Charles. When John was twenty-eight and Charles was twenty-three the famous "Holy Club" was formed. It consisted of a little group of students who met together for the study of the Greek Testament, for self-examination and prayer. Their methodical lives led to their receiving the epithet of "Methodists," a name of contempt which was destined to become one of highest honour.

While Epworth Rectory may be called the cradle of Methodism, it was at Oxford that it received its strong impress of intellectual culture. It must never be forgotten that it was in the first university of Europe that this child of Providence was fostered and trained. They were no illiterates, those Fellows of Oxford, who met for the study of the oracles of God in their original tongues. With the instinct of true learning, having kindled their torches at the altar fire of eternal truth, they went forth to diffuse the light, to illumine the darkness, and as heralds to proclaim the dawn of a new day. The university crest has in this connection a prophetic significance. It is an open Bible with the motto, "*Dominus illuminatio mea*"—The Lord is my Light. Though the mission of Methodism has been largely like



JOHN WESLEY TEACHING A YOUNG NEGRESS IN GEORGIA.

that of the Christ of Nazareth, to preach the Gospel to the poor and lowly, it has been the better able to do this because it has sought to

"Unite the pair so long disjointed,  
Knowledge and vital Piety."

Amid the stately surroundings of Oxford, that city of colleges which has trained so many of the English scholars and statesmen, the Wesleys, Whitefield, Coke, and other early Methodist leaders received that broad culture, that sound classical learning, that strict logical training, which so efficiently equipped them for the great life-work they were to do.

As we walk the smooth-turfed quadrangles and traverse the ivy-clad cloisters and the long rows of collegiate buildings, and visit the alcoved library, the great halls and the college chapels, we gain some suggestions of the atmosphere of learning by which the founders of Methodism were surrounded.