

loyalty and chivalry; devotion to the Church, to the army and the Sovereign; and it has contributed largely in moulding the moral, religious and social habits of the people, both in England and Ireland.

A valuable document has recently been found in the archives of Wells Cathedral, which relates to the paternal estates of the Wesleys, and fixes their location not far from that venerable city, where they had existed for many centuries. The family mansion and the broad acres of pasture and woodland, were in the possession of the then rightful heir, George Arthur Wesley, who had led a wild and extravagant life in the army, and about 1784, just a century ago, to enable him to pay his debts, and to retain his freedom of person, he had to sell the family domain, wood, pastures, and mansion, and the latter was pulled down, being too old to be repaired effectively. The remarkable part of this narrative is, that Adam Clarke, the first historian of the Wesley family, was travelling his first circuit as a Methodist preacher at the time this property was sold, and the property was situate within walking distance of where he then resided. Then, Adam Clarke had personal knowledge of John Wesley, and did not think of his ancestry; indeed not any member of the Epworth Wesley family had any knowledge where their paternal estate was, seeing that their branch of the Wesleys had been severed from the parent tree over a century, without even knowing their relationship. The deeds found in the archives of Wells Cathedral are of great value in identifying this long-lost property. The present owner of the estate has permitted the ground to be opened, so as to trace the position and extent of the original mansion, the foundations of which still remain in the ground. This search was made in 1883. Had Adam Clarke only known of that sale of the property, as he might have done—only newspapers were but little known and read in country places a century ago—what a different history of the family would he have written with such knowledge for a starting-point. Many important facts in history have yet to be discovered, even in the history of Methodism during the last century.

Before the Normans conquered Britain, the Wesleys occupied a prominent place in the land; before surnames were used, and before England was united under one sovereign, the Wesley family flourished. When Athelstan the Saxon ruled, A.D. 925-