

the leading men of the Society were mad for separating from the Church. I endeavored to reason with them, but in vain; they had neither sense nor even good manners left. At length, after meeting the whole Society, I told them, if you are resolved, you may have your service in Church hours; but remember, from that time you will see my face no more. This struck deep, and from that hour I have heard no more of separating from the Church."—Vol. iv. p. 357.

22. July 6, 1788. "I fain would prevent the members here [Epworth] from leaving the Church, but I cannot do it. As Mr. G. is not a pious man . . . I cannot, with all my influence, persuade them either to hear him, or to attend the Sacrament administered by him."—Vol. iv. p. 430.

23. Aug. 4, 1788. "One of the most important points considered at this Conference was that of leaving the Church. The sum of a long conversation was—1. That, in a course of fifty years, we had neither premeditatedly or willingly varied from it in one article, either of doctrine or discipline."—Vol. iv. p. 432.

24. April 14, 1789. "I gave them all a plain account of the design of Methodism, namely, not to separate from the Church, but to unite together all the children of God."—Vol. iv. p. 451.

25. May 4, 1789. In a sermon on Heb. v. 4, Wesley says—"Did we ever appoint you to administer sacraments, to exercise the priestly office? Such a design never entered into our mind, it was the farthest from our thoughts. And if any preacher had taken such a step we should have looked upon it as a

palpable breach of this rule, and consequently as a recantation of our connexion. . . . And in doing it you renounce the first principle of Methodism, which was wholly and solely to preach the Gospel. . . . I wish all of you who are vulgarly called Methodists would seriously consider what has been said; and particularly you whom God hath commissioned to call sinners to repentance. It does by no means follow from hence, that ye are commissioned to baptize or to administer the Lord's Supper. Ye never dreamed of this for ten or twenty years after ye began to preach. Ye did not then, like Korah, Dathan and Abiram, 'seek the priesthood also.' Ye knew 'No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that was called of God as was Aaron.' Oh, contain yourselves within your own bounds! be content with preaching the Gospel! . . . Ye yourselves were at 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."—Vol. vii. pp. 277-280.

26. June 2, 1789. "Unless I see more reason for it than I ever yet saw, I will not leave the Church of England, as by law established, while the breath of God is in my nostrils."—Vol. xiii. p. 238.

27. Dec. 11, 1789. (Fifteen months before his death.) "I declare once more, that I live and die a member of the Church of England; and that none who regard my judgment or advice will ever separate from it."—Vol. xiii. p. 241.

28. March, 1791. "Being asked whether he desired, in case of his removal, that any or all the