

EDITOR'S NOTE

WHEN John Wesley prepared his Journal for publication he prefaced it with the following account of its origin :

"It was in pursuance of an advice given by Bishop Taylor, in his 'Rules for Holy Living and Dying,' that, about fifteen years ago, I began to take a more exact account than I had done before, of the manner wherein I spent my time, writing down how I had employed every hour.

"This I continued to do, wherever I was, till the time of my leaving England for Georgia. The variety of scenes which I then passed through induced me to transcribe, from time to time, the more material parts of my diary, adding here and there such little reflections as occurred to my mind.

"Of this Journal thus occasionally compiled, the following is a short extract : it not being my design to relate all those particulars which I wrote for my own use only, and which would answer no valuable end to others, however important they were to me."

Rev. John Telford, one of Wesley's biographers, says that "the earlier parts of the Journal were published in the interest of Methodism, that the calumny and slander then rife might be silenced by a plain narrative of the facts as to its founding, and its purpose. The complete Journals, still preserved in twenty-six bound volumes, have never been printed. Copious extracts were made by Wesley himself, and issued in twenty-one parts, the successive instalments being eagerly expected by a host of readers."