

individuals. On his return to England, he pursued his usual routine of travelling, visiting the societies, preaching, &c. From Dec. to Feb. 1787 we find him busily employed in London: in March we follow him from Plymouth to Bristol—thence in April to Manchester, Holyhead and Dublin, on his way to visit the Irish Societies; after which in July, we find him in Manchester and Bolton; in August and September, at the Norman Islands; on November 4th at London, after preaching to many congregations in Cornwall; on the 9th at Nottingham; and in the latter end of the month again in London, where on 9th December he says “I went down at half an hour past five, but found no Preacher in the Chapel, though we had three or four in the house: so I preached myself. Afterwards enquiring why none of my family attended the morning preaching, they said it was because they sat up too late. I resolved to put a stop to this and therefore ordered, that, 1. Every one under my roof should go to bed at nine: that 2. Every one might attend the morning preaching: and so they have done ever since.

Such were the labours of Mr. Wesley in the eighty-fifth year of his age, exhibiting a singular instance of natural strength, sustained, doubtless, by the special blessing of God; and of an entire consecration of time to the service of mankind, of which no similar example is probably on record. The vigour of his mind at this age was not less remarkable, nor the buoyant cheerfulness of his spirit. Nothing of the old man of unrenewed nature appeared; no forebodings of evil, no querulous comparisons of the present with the past:—but the same delight in the beauties of nature; the same enjoyment of conversation, provided it had the two qualities of usefulness and brevity; the same joy in hopeful appearances of good; and the same tact at turning the edge of little discomforts and disappointments by the power of an undisturbed equanimity. Above all was exhibited the man of *one business*, living only to serve God, and his generation, “instant in season and out of season,” seriously intent not upon doing so much duty, but upon saving souls, and preaching, conversing, and writing for this end alone. And that he had not lived in vain, evidence was accumulating on all hands:—in his Journal of 1785, March 24, he observes,—I was now considering how strangely the grain of mustard seed, planted about fifty years ago, had grown up. It has spread through all Great Britain, and Ireland, the Isle of Wight, and the Isle of Man; then to America, through the whole continent, into Canada, the Leeward Islands, and Newfoundland. And the Societies, in all these parts, walk by one rule, knowing that religion is in holy tempers, and striving to worship God, not in form only, but likewise in truth.”

On March 29th, 1788 Mr. Charles Wesley died, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. To him the Methodists are indebted for the numerous and invaluable hymns he composed for their use*.

*Mr. Watson observes that, “For the spiritual advantages which the Methodists have derived from his inestimable hymns, which are in constant use in their congregations, as well as for his early labours, the memory of Mr. Charles Wesley indeed,