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JOHN WESLEY'S DEATH.

John Wesley, the good man of whom we are hearing so much just now, grew to be very old. He did not have to suffer a long illness as so many people do. He was able to be up till a few days before he died. When too weak to sit up any longer, how do you think he spent some of his time. He spent it singing—singing beautiful hymns as long as he had strength. He was not afraid when he felt himself dying. For he knew in a few hours he would be with his dear Saviour whom he had loved and served all his life.

It is a scene well worthy the artist's brush, the closing hours of this veteran of Methodism. His end befitted his life. One may say of him, in spite of his burden of eighty-eight years, that he died in the thick of the battle. During the last few weeks of his life, he preached a number of vigorous sermons. Only six days before his death, he preached from the text, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near."

This was his last. On Saturday, three days later, he wrote his final letter. It was to Wilberforce, urging him to continue his efforts against the African slave-trade. Then, for three days, he weakened gradually, praising God as the tide of life ebbed out to sea.

Thus died one whose power had made itself felt, not only throughout the three kingdoms, but throughout the New World well. Of him it is written, "No Eng-

lishman whatever, save the sovereign himself, swayed a wider or more profound popular power." He who once had been persecuted, beaten, and stoned, had to be buried before six o'clock in the morning to prevent accidents from the great crowds that thronged to look upon the face of the departed leader, crowds from which rose constantly the sob of sorrowing hearts.

WESLEY'S EARLY MINISTRY.

In 1725 John Wesley was ordained deacon. Then in 1727 he went to serve

by his brother Charles, then a student at the university. This company was nicknamed the "Holy Club," and its members were called "Methodists." They were devout and methodical, and carefully observed the method of study and living prescribed by the university authorities.

In 1735 John Wesley started as a missionary, or, as Wesley wrote, a missionary to Georgia, where he landed on the fifth of February, 1736. On the first of February, 1738, he returned to England.

His preaching now became so scrip-

tural and spiritual that in a short time the clergymen of the English Church would not let him, his brother Charles, or his friend Whitefield preach in their pulpits. So they were compelled to go out and preach in the open air to the multitudes, who needed and desired to hear their discourses. Then persons converted under Mr. Wesley's ministry desired him to form them into a society and to care for them. So in the latter part of 1739, in London, he organized his

first society. Other societies were formed here and there, and in a short time Mr. John Wesley found himself the head of a great religious organization. This spread rapidly in his lifetime, and to this day continues to advance throughout the world.

We truly fear God when we conscientiously shun the very appearance of evil as well as all wrong.



DEATH OF JOHN WESLEY.

From "Hurst's History of Methodism," by permission of Eaton & Mains.

as curate at Epworth and Wroote, rendering valuable assistance to his father. In 1728 he returned to Oxford, and was ordained a presbyter or priest in the Church of England. Called back to the university, he gave up his curacy in 1729 and returned to Lincoln College, where as a fellow he taught, and as moderator presided over the discussions or disputations which were held six times a week. He now became the head of a little society of university men who had been gathered