

THE WESLEYAN.

For the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."—SCRIPTURE.

VOLUME II.

HALIFAX, N. S., MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1839.

NUMBER 2.

Biographical.

MEMOIRS OF THE LATE CHAS. WESLEY, ESQ.

The following particulars of this extraordinary man are extracted from the Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine.

To the Editor of the Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine.

THE notice of Mr. Charles Wesley's death, inserted in the last number of the Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine, brought to my recollection some particulars respecting that very excellent and remarkable man which cannot fail to interest your readers. He was the eldest son of Mr. Charles Wesley, and the nephew of the Founder of Methodism. The father was not more distinguished by his genius as a writer of hymns, than the son as an organist. The following account of his early life, and of the development of his musical talents, was written by his father, and given to the Honorable Daines Barrington, by whom it was published in his "Miscellanies," in the year 1781.

"Charles was born at Bristol, Dec. 11th, 1757. He was two years and three quarters old when I first observed his strong inclination to music. He then surprised me by playing a tune on the harpsichord, readily, and in just time. Soon after he played several, whatever his mother sung, or whatever he heard in the streets.

"From his birth she used to quiet and amuse him with the harpsichord; but he would not suffer her to play with one hand only, taking the other and putting it on the keys, before he could speak. When he played himself she used to tie him up by his backstring to the chair, for fear of his falling. Whatever tune it was, he always put a true bass to it. From the beginning he always played without study or hesitation; and, as the masters told me, perfectly well.

"Mr. Broadrip, organist of Bristol, heard him in petticoats, and foretold he would one day make a great player.

"Whenever he was called to play to a stranger, he would ask, in a word of his own, 'Is he a musicker?' and if answered, 'Yes,' he played with the greatest readiness.

"He always played *con spirito*. There was something in his manner above a child, which struck the hearers, learned or unlearned.

"At four years old I carried him with me to London. Mr. Beard was the first that confirmed Mr. Broadrip's judgment of him, and kindly offered his interest with Dr. Boyce, to get him admitted among the King's boys.

But I had then no thoughts of bringing him up a musician.

"A gentleman carried him next to Mr. Stanley, who expressed much pleasure and surprise at hearing him; and declared he had never met with one of his age with so strong a propensity to music. The gentleman told us, he never before believed what Handel used to tell him of himself, and his own love of music, in his childhood.

"Mr. Madan presented my son to Mr. Worgan, who was extremely kind; and, as I then thought, partial to him. He told us, he would prove an eminent master, if he was not taken off by other studies. Mr. Worgan frequently entertained him with the harpsichord. Charles was greatly taken with his bold, full manner of playing, and seemed even then to catch a spark of his fire.

"At our return to Bristol we left him to ramble on till he was near six; then we gave him to Mr. Rooko for a master; a man of no name, but very good-natured, who let him run on *ad libitum*, whilst he sat by, more to observe than to control him.

"Mr. Rogers, the oldest organist in Bristol, was one of his first friends. He often set him on his knee, and made him play to him, declaring that he was more delighted in hearing him than himself."

To this account Mr. Barrington adds, "What follows contains the strongest and fullest approbation of Mr. Charles Wesley's manner of playing on the organ by the most eminent professors; to which commendation they who have the pleasure of hearing him at present will give the most ample credit."

So perfectly was his mind absorbed in music, that he seemed incapable, through the greater part of his life, of directing his undivided attention to any other subject. During his boyhood he received the rudiments of a classical education under the tuition of his father; but he was only able to learn his Latin grammar by setting his lessons to music.

He had a younger brother, of the name of Samuel, who now survives him. He exhibited the same propensities in early life; and excited great attention by his extraordinary musical compositions when very young. As the brothers advanced in life they acquired the highest celebrity as performers, and their concerts presented attractions to the first personages of the land. Their father cherished a full persuasion that music was their providential calling; but their uncle strongly expressed an opposite opinion.

King George the Third is well known to have been very fond of music, particularly of that of Handel; and as Mr. Charles Wesley excelled almost every

nal to be the inter-
ect a magnificent ca-
wealthy peers had
ibe 1,000. each to

at this office.
RY DEFENDED,
r of the Divine Institution
a being essential to a trial
a letter to the Author, by
rough;—in a series of let-

McLEOD.

UCTION,—on the
d Buildings, opposite Mrs
Michael Smith. — Also,
JOHN SCOTT
JOHN SMITH.

one volume, royal 8vo
a portrait.

LACK,

ices of several indi-
ress of Methodism in No-
rrespondence of the Rev.
Garretson, &c. &c. by the
of Cobourg Academy, U.C.

pages imperial octavo,) is
by Wm. Cunnabell, at his
N. S. Terms: Seven Shil-
Eight Shillings and Nine-
advants. All commu-
of the Wesleyan, Mel-

ted to observe the follow-
scription money must be
is subscribed for, the other
in the first instance, send
the first part of this re-
will please forward at the
fall in observing the latter
to such persons, will be
ase make a speedy return

nd useful subjects, direct-
Wesleyan, Halifax, N. S.,
e, they must be sent free o-
y post, will appear, unless
icles must be accompanied
uplication involving facts
iters.

addressed to the Office
Wesleyan Ministers through
Anderson, Esq.

Esq.