

Lessons for Young People

From the Life and Work
of John Wesley

Earnestness of Purpose.

Among the chief characteristics of the life of John Wesley were regularity of habits and earnestness of purpose. These are probably best exemplified, first, by the fact that he always arose at four o'clock in the morning, and, second, by the incident related in which he informed his Presbyterian fellow traveller who was reproving him for being so brief in his evening devotions, that he always kept praying up. To the former he attributed his good health in later years. He records in his Journals that he was able to preach at seventy-three than at twenty-three. There is no doubt that his great spiritual power was largely due to his earnestness.—Dr. E. A. Blakeley, Winnipeg, Man.

A Real and Vivid Experience

John Wesley's unique power and success were due partly to his great natural ability, partly to his high scholastic attainments, partly to his concentration of energy, but above all to the reality and vividness of his experience of justification, regeneration and sanctification. To repeat, in any considerable measure, his spiritual triumphs, in our day, we must devote all our energies and attainments to the service of God in the service of man, with a heart full of love, with a mind open, alert, ready for all expedient innovation and adaptation, but with a firm confidence in the essential and immutable truths of the Gospel, and, above all, with profound personal life in Christ, and loyalty to Christ.—Rev. F. H. Wallace, D.D., Victoria University, Toronto, Ont.

Keep a Journal.

Young people may learn a very profitable lesson from the life and character of John Wesley by following his example in keeping a journal in which to record their daily thoughts, feelings and doings. Wesley kept a daily journal for his own improvement, but what a help and blessing it has been ever since, not only to the "people called Methodists," but to Christendom. "If all our young people would every evening record the thoughts, motives and actions of the day it would be a wonderful incentive to them to live pure, righteous and useful lives. Keeping a daily journal will help us to avoid mistakes, quicken our spiritual life, brighten and cheer our pathway and make us more effective workers for the dear Master. Try it.—Mr. W. H. Lambly, Inverness, Que.

Influence of Life's Nature.

In response to your request for a contribution to The Era's symposium on "Lessons for Young People from the Life and Character of John Wesley," my thought runs in the direction of what literature did in moulding that great and notable character. At twenty-two he read the "Christian Pattern" and "Taylor's Holy Living and Dying"; at twenty-four, Law's "Serious Call" and "Christian Perfection." He staggered, got in mists, strayed near to fatal error, but keenly and tirelessly seeking after the truth he threshed out all he read, and these books—to say nothing about others, though he rightly and positively rejected much that they taught, were an important factor in making John Wesley

the flaming evangelist of the eighteenth century, and, under God, the founder of world-wide Methodism. He knew the great doctrines, he afterward taught so clearly, all the better because of the researches and investigations made while seeking after the truth, that finally dawned upon him.—Rev. R. J. Elliott, Simcoe, Ont.

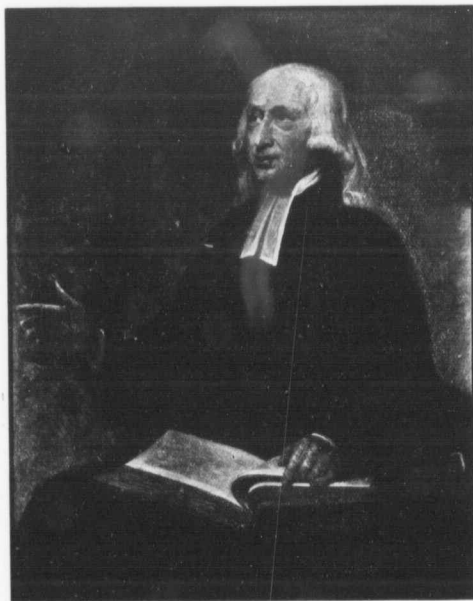
Diligence, Unselfishness and Consecration.

Amongst many features of John Wesley's character that are worthy of imitation by young people there are three specially noteworthy. First, his unwearying diligence. He was always at

as Long as I Live, if my Health is so Long Preserved Me."

Second, his rare unselfishness. He thought of others before himself, and by losing his life gained it. Though he had the means of amassing riches he died comparatively a poor man. In this age of materialism he illustrates that profound saying of our Blessed Lord—"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Third, his entire consecration. He was all and always for God. This principle dominated him, and in no small measure explained his astonishing usefulness. If he was conscious God was pleased he went on with his work despite sneers, ridicule, and persecution.



From the Portrait by William Hamilton, R.A.

JOHN WESLEY, M.A.

work except when asleep. When riding in his carriage or on horse-back he had a book in his hand, and he had always writing materials with him, so that he could avail himself of quiet moments for preparing something for the press. An illustrative incident is seen in the following:

In March, 1750, when crossing the Welsh Mountains a great storm sprang up and he and his travelling companion, C. Hopper, had to take shelter in a cottage on the road. While sitting there for three or four hours he translated "Aldrich's Hope" from the Latin into English. As early as 1726 he wrote "Leisure, and I Have Taken Leave of One." Another—"I Propose to be Busy

These three principles will make a commonplace life beautiful and useful.—Rev. T. Cooper Antill, D.D., Kingston, Ont.

Study Wesley's Journal.

During the present year the Bicentenary of John Wesley's birth will attract great attention throughout the Methodist world.

I venture to say to the Epworth Leaguers and young people of Methodism generally that they can find no more worthy study during this year than the biography of John Wesley and "The History of Methodism."

Since the days of the apostles no