

to meet on Wednesday, November 22nd, one week only after the vacancy of the See.

Dr. Hills will leave for England at the beginning of Nov.

JOHN WESLEY AND THE CHURCH.

As Methodism is stronger in America than in any other part of the world, it may interest many of our readers to learn something of the opinions of John Wesley, its alleged founder, and having done this, to compare them with those professed by the sect, which, relying on the ignorance of its people, claims this self same John Wesley as its originator and father. First of all we will consider the question, "Did Wesley intend those who followed him to leave the Church of their fathers?"

In the eighth volume of his "Works," pages 299 and 321, we find the following:

"What may we reasonably believe to be God's design in raising up the preachers called Methodists? Not to form any new sect; but to reform the nation, particularly the Church, and to spread Spiritual holiness over the land. We are *not* seceders; nor do we bear any resemblance to them. We set out on quite opposite principles."

And again, he declares in the *Armenian Magazine*, for April, 1790, vol. xiii, p. 216: "I never had any design of separating from the Church. I have no such design now. *I do not believe the Methodists in general design it, when I am no more seen.* I do and will do all that is in my power to prevent such an event. Nevertheless, in spite of all that I can do, many of them will separate from it (although I am apt to think, not one-half; perhaps not one-third of them.) These will be so bold and injudicious, as to form a separate party. In flat opposition to these I declare once more *that I live and die a member of the Church of England; and that none who regard my judgment or advice will ever separate from it.*"

And again he writes in his "Works," vol. vii, pp. 278, 279 and 280: "I hold all the doctrines of the Church of England; I approve her plan of discipline, and only wish it could be put in execution; I do not knowingly vary from any rule of the Church, unless in those few instances where I judge, and as far as I judge, there is an absolute necessity * * but all this is not separating from the Church, so far from it that whenever I have opportunity I attend the Church Service myself, and advise all our Societies so to do." Wesley states that his two principles are, "The one that I dare not separate from the Church, that *I believe it would be a sin so to do*; the other that I believe